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IOWA STATE DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY AND ARCHIVES

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THE ANNALS OF IOWA

In the interest of preserving Iowa history, the Iowa State Department of History and Archives, as an official and permanent department of the state, solicits the presentation to its Manuscript Collection letters, diaries, family histories, and general manuscripts about Iowans and the area of which the state is a geographical part. The department welcomes for publication in its ANNALS OF IOWA, reminiscences, the writings, observations and studies of those familiar with important and significant events and movements in the state's history.

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THE ANNALS OF IOWA

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SECURING THE JUVENILE COURT LAW IN IOWA¹

BY HAZEL HILLIS

The story of how Iowa got its juvenile court law in 1904 cannot be clipped off the bolt of social-reform tales neatly, at an abrupt beginning, as so much ribbon over the counter. Its pattern goes back to the passage of a probation law in Massachusetts in 1869; to the establishment of juvenile courts in Australia, Canada, Illinois, and Colorado in 1898 and 1899; and, even more perhaps, to something else that happened just before the turn of the century.

The gay nineties, remembered for leg of mutton sleeves and tandem bicycles, should also be remembered as the era when a lady could, for the first time, speak in public and be absolutely sure of retaining her amateur standing. Less than a generation before it had been considered ladylike for a woman to collapse from sheer timidity or excitement at the prospect of having to stand on her two cramped feet and address, even briefly, a public gathering or fellow members of her literary society.

But gradually this had been changed. It is hard, even now, to tell whether Susan B. Anthony and Iowa-born Amelia Bloomer with their respective movements for equal suffrage and dress reform were the cause of the new spirit of independence and confidence loose among the women-folk of that generation, or whether they were merely the first to publicly cast aside shackling traditions.

At any rate, the women of America were thinking, and at least a part of them no longer believed that it was always

¹The source material used in this sketch, unless otherwise cited, is from letters manuscripts, and newspaper clippings preserved by Cora Bussey Hillis (Mrs. Isaac L.) and compiled in scrapbooks by the author, Mrs. Cyrus B. Hillis, her daughter-in-law.

Thanks are also due to the Iowa Congress of Parents & Teachers for permission to use portions of Mrs. Hillis' article in their "Iowa Congress of Parents and Teachers," published in 1941.

man's right to lead, and always woman's duty to follow. One woman, Mrs. Theodore W. Birney of Washington, D. C., did more thinking than most, and in 1897, with the financial aid of Mrs. Phoebe A. Hearst, organized the Congress of Mothers.² This national movement asked for an educated parenthood and a wider vision of the needs of children. Mrs. Birney, in her first address to the Congress, asserted that "The appeal to take up the needs of the child and kindred topics is not made to mothers alone. Men have a thousand outside interests and pursuits, while nature has set her seal upon woman as the caretaker of the child; therefore it is natural that woman should lead in awakening mankind to a sense of the responsibility resting upon the race to provide each new-born soul with an environment which will foster its highest development."

The idea caught, and swept the country like a living flame. Mothers' clubs were formed; objects and purposes were discussed. And all the while the press comment was continuous, favorable, unfavorable, and frequently hilarious. One approving editorial writer summed up his opinion by observing that "This Congress is composed of women of brains—women who wear shoes large enough to insure comfort of the foot, and whose belts would encompass several of the wasp-like waists of fifty years ago. Such women both realize and recognize their duties and obligations, and know their rights. They are sensible and not prudish. They do not hesitate to discuss some questions the mere mention of which a generation or two ago would have been indelicate. Knowing that heredity is important and that Oliver Wendell Holmes was more than half right when he emphasized the importance of a wise selection of a grandfather as a preliminary in education, these nineteenth century mothers can look you serenely in the face and talk of prenatal culture."

The National Congress of Mothers had two years of rapid growth behind it when Illinois established the first really

²In 1908 "and Parent-Teacher Associations" was added to the official name of the Congress. In 1924 the name "National Congress of Parents and Teachers" was adopted.

workable juvenile court system in the United States. In its history, *Twenty Years' Work for Child Welfare*, published in 1917, the Congress refers briefly to its part in the juvenile court movement:

The Congress did not originate the juvenile court and probation system, but it saw its advantages and worked for years to establish a systematic propaganda which was successful in many places Detention houses instead of jails were promoted, and the placing of the probation work on a foundation which required efficiency in child nurture as a qualification for such service became a feature of Congress work.

In the spring of 1899 an earnest mother and civic leader, Cora Bussey Hillis of Des Moines, represented the Iowa Child Study Society of the National Congress of Mothers, held, as the two previous annual meetings had been, in Washington. Realizing that the Iowa delegate was a woman of unusual ability, Mrs. Birney urged her to accept the title of state regent and the responsibility of organizing Iowa into a Congress unit. Mrs. Hillis, writing of it some years later, said: "Here was I, bidden to preach a new gospel to a state full of mothers, the majority of whom really believed they already knew all there was to be known about child-care. I was to work the limit of my strength in a new cause; to overturn established procedures; to introduce innovations, sometimes unwelcome because not understood; to be the agitator in school affairs, and even to try to overturn a century-old system of jurisprudence; introduce juvenile courts, and compel reluctant judges to turn from the business of safeguarding the almighty dollar long enough to save some little immortal child."

Although no records of that meeting of 1899 are available, this comment by Mrs. Hillis indicates that even then the National Congress of Mothers had adopted the cause of the juvenile delinquent and was agitating for court reform.

Mrs. Hillis accepted the responsibility placed upon her by Mrs. Birney, and Mrs. Birney and the board of directors of the Congress, in turn, accepted her invitation to hold their fourth convention in Des Moines.

Iowa was ready for the Congress when it convened May 21, 1900. Every county had its mothers' clubs and thousands of delegates poured into the new auditorium loaned by its Des Moines owners to the mothers for their convention.

A few days before the meeting opened, the *Sioux City Journal* said of the mothers' work:

The line of investigation followed by the clubs adopting the congress plan of work is a systematic and scientific investigation into the care and training of children, and the prevention of the increase of defective and delinquent children.

The program for the final day of the Congress was a symposium on "The Child Saving Problem from Various Points of View." One of the speakers, Mrs. Frederic A. Schoff of Philadelphia, Vice President of the organization, gave a resume on "The Provisions (or lack of them) in the Different States for the Care of Neglected, Dependent and Misdemeaning Children." According to the press, the report Mrs. Schoff presented "represented the combined labor of six women for a period of eight months." It was, it was said, practically a textbook on the subject, being a survey of all laws affecting neglected and dependent children. Another speaker, Mrs. Martha P. Falconer, probation officer of Chicago, spoke on "Practical Benefits of the Juvenile Court Law."

At the close of the national meeting, the Iowa Congress was formed and Mrs. Hillis was named state president.*

Suggestions, a little magazine published in Des Moines at this time—"a paper devoted to home subjects, decoration, and dress"—and containing a section edited by Mrs. Hillis, carried news about the local, state, and national congress activities. The May, 1901, issue declared:

The work of the Congress of Mothers is preventive rather than reformatory. A systematic effort will be made, and has been made in some places to have the local authorities report to the mothers' clubs every case of incorrigibility coming before them. They do not believe a little child deserves to be locked up until he is 18 or 21 because of so-called incorrigibility.

*She continued to serve as president until 1906.

The same issue of the magazine announced the 1901 meeting of the Mothers' Congress to be held in May in Columbus, Ohio. Hon. Harvey B. Hurd of Chicago, author of the Juvenile Court Act of Illinois, was scheduled to address the Congress on "New Times; New Methods; or, Why Juvenile Courts and the Probation System Should Exist in all States."

Included in the list of "Aims and Purposes of the Congress" published by the national organization were the following:

To secure legislation as will insure that children of tender years may not be tried in ordinary courts, but that each town shall establish juvenile courts with special officers, whose business it shall be to look out for that care which will rescue instead of confirm the child in evil ways.

To work for such probationary care in individual homes rather than in institutions.

The June issue of *Suggestions* gave a detailed report of the Columbus meeting. Mrs. Hillis, prefacing quotations from addresses by Judge Hurd and Richard S. Tuthill, Judge of the Chicago Juvenile Court, said, "No field of effort more forcibly appeals to the Iowa Congress of Mothers than the movement to establish juvenile courts to save children from becoming criminals."

Judge Hurd, in his address before the Mothers Congress, spoke of results already gained from the two-year-old Illinois law. "This law has done more than its authors expected of it. What I claim for it is that it is letting in new light upon the subject and may lead to something better than we have had before."

Mrs. Hillis commented upon Judge Hurd's talk: "He suggested that the Mothers' Congress petition the next legislature to enact a law under which the parents of delinquent and incorrigible children could be arraigned before the bar of justice and be punished. He gave it as his opinion that they are really at the root of the evil and ought to be looked after."

Judge Tuthill, in his talk, explained the operation of the

juvenile court over which he presided, and stressed the need for more women probation officers. "Sometime ago," he told the Congress, "about seven hundred and fifty children were placed under the care of probation officers, and all but about two hundred of them behaved themselves with propriety and have never been brought back to the court again. That shows what can be done. Now a good deal more could be done if we had more of these faithful women probation officers, for a woman can get into a home, if she has tact and judgment, and good sense, and can accomplish more than a dozen men. Men cannot talk to women. When a man comes around a home the mother resents it. 'Well,' she says, 'you are trying to do something that is not any of your concern—trying to teach me to take care of my babies.'

"It needs women to do this work. Wherever there are children to deal with, you must have women."

Although Mrs. Hillis was the very busy president of the Iowa Congress of Mothers, she found time, until 1905, to head the Des Moines Union of Mothers' Clubs. At the final spring meeting of the latter organization in June of 1901, held shortly after her return from Columbus, the matter of a juvenile court for Iowa was discussed.

The *Iowa State Register* reported that

Mrs. Hillis called attention to many matters that demand the attention of all the mothers of the city. Several legislative questions were brought up and it was decided to carry on an active campaign during the next legislature for their passage. The following are three matters that will be brought before the legislature and bills will be introduced along the lines indicated:

An adequate law for the punishment of kidnappers of children; regulating the age of consent; for the punishment of infringements on the law which regulates the sale of liquors to children, together with cigarettes and the use of gambling devices.

The establishment of a juvenile court in Iowa for offenders under the age of 16 years.

A child labor law.

Committees were named by Mrs. Hillis for the ensuing year as follows:—Juvenile Court—Mrs. George Peak, Mrs. E. B. Whitcomb, Mrs. Anna Gordon, Mrs. De Loose, Mrs. T. A. Cheshire, Mrs. Lulu

Bishop, Mrs. S. F. Prouty, Mrs. Orin Davidson, Mrs. Dr. Patchin.

The state meeting of the Iowa Congress of Mothers, first planned for the spring and then for the fall, of 1901, was not held in Des Moines until January 28-31, 1902. If one had not known it before, a glance at the program would show that it was to be a juvenile court year for the mothers. "What is Iowa Doing for Her Dependent, Neglected, and Delinquent Children;" "The Incurable Boy," "The Wayward Girl," "The Insufficiency of the Law," "The Juvenile Court"—these were subjects to be discussed. The Congress planned to talk about other things, of course,—“Compulsory Education,” “Child Labor,” “The Mental and Moral Development of the Adolescent Child”—but the accent at this convention was on juvenile delinquency and what might be done about it.

In the advance publicity, a spokesman for the Congress asserted that "the legislative acts to be asked by the mothers for the children are so manifestly needed that, as a prominent senator remarked, 'They will need no lobbying, and will doubtless go through without one dissenting voice.' The women of all sorts of clubs feel that they must help in this work, and are uniting with the Congress that their influence may tend to secure the desired results."

The most interesting event of that Congress of 1902 was the reception for the delegates held by Governor and Mrs. Cummins in the executive rooms in the capitol. Representing 40,000 Iowa women, two hundred delegates and the presidents of five women's organizations "looked in upon the sessions of the House and Senate. Lieutenant Governor Herriott called the Senate to order, granted a recess of fifteen minutes, and invited Mrs. Hillis to the platform, introducing her as the daughter of General Cyrus Bussey, a former member of that body, and as a woman active in the welfare work of the state. Mrs. Hillis, in reply, said: 'We represent the motherhood of the state, and we urge your passage of a law making the kidnapping of children punishable by such extreme penalty as will prevent a repetition of the Cudahy kidnapping case. We also give notice that

two years hence we will present a juvenile court and probation law, and earnestly request the legislators to study the literature of the movement as it appears in the current press.' " After leaving the Senate, the delegates were then "escorted to the House where a similar scene was enacted."

The visit to the legislature by the Congress delegates was the result of no sudden whim on the part of the delegates or their leader. Like a piece from a jigsaw puzzle, it fitted into a picture of events that started shortly after Mrs. Hillis returned from the sessions of the National Congress of Mothers in 1899. Inspired by that meeting, she had begun a quiet and thorough study of juvenile delinquency. She entered into lengthy correspondence with persons who were in a position to give her information and support, and what she learned made her resolve that Iowa should not be too far behind in the parade of states that was moving slowly, but inexorably, in the direction of more humane treatment for the children brought before the country's courts.

Under date of January 11, 1902, shortly before she became President of the National Congress of Mothers, Mrs. Schoff, leader of the juvenile court crusade in Pennsylvania, said in a letter to Mrs. Hillis:

"The judge of the juvenile court sent me your letter to the Court, saying he knew of no one who could reply so well as I. My desk is so piled with letters, that I sighed when I knew the reply would take an hour, though of course I am so glad you are working to get the law.

"There are one or two points you want to make clearer than ours. Be sure to have the word 'incurable' added to 'dependent and delinquent,' because some are trying to make out that the law does not apply to incurable children, and that on complaint of parents magistrates may still commit children to reformatories. This is one of the greatest abuses we have to deal with. Parents wishing to be rid of the support of their children send them to a reformatory, in many cases, wishing to put their support on the state until they can earn money. Parental responsibility is not encouraged by such a course, and it is positively wicked to put innocent children in a reformatory. If you

could only see great big men and women swear that a six year old is incorrigible, you would feel the absurdity and injustice of such a system, as I do.

"The jurisdiction of all children's cases should be given clearly to the Juvenile Court and not to Magistrates. I think if I were drawing a new bill, I would include in it the provision for the house of detention for untried juvenile offenders, or at least state definitely that every county should provide rooms away from the prison where children awaiting trial would be kept. There must be definite provision for this part, and it must be mandatory. Do not use the word 'may'. Put 'must' or 'shall'. Permissive laws amount to very little. If you send me an outline of your bill when drawn, I will give you any suggestion I can about it.

"The Juvenile Court in Philadelphia is slowly getting into running order. We have rotation in our judges, and it will take longer on that account to get them all educated to its best working. Those Judges who have sat in the Court appreciate its importance and value. We have not yet sufficient probation officers, but they give reports of great good done under the new system. They report improved homes, and their visits are welcomed by parents and children.

"Our Children's Aid Society has acted as a House of Detention until the city can provide one. It has, since July, taken 400 children awaiting trial, and at no expense to the city. These are the children who would otherwise have been kept in police stations or prisons. This Society has rendered most valuable aid in carrying out the law. My committee in the new century has been authorized to raise a fund of eight thousand dollars for the support of twelve probation officers. We have districted the city, and as soon as possible, shall put a responsible person in each district.

"Already the commitments of children to reformatory institutions have decreased fifty percent.

"A member of the Maryland Legislature called on me yesterday for suggestions and information. It is his purpose

next week to introduce a bill similar to ours in the Maryland Legislature, and to give his undivided attention to putting the measure through. It is most interesting to see the idea spreading, and we must do all we can to push it everywhere.

"New Jersey is deeply interested. I have spoken in Trenton and Camden to large and enthusiastic meetings, and I think there is little doubt it will be accepted there.

"I understand the Governor of Indiana is personally pushing the subject.

"Iowa is such an intelligent and progressive state you should get it easily there. St. Louis has such a court and New York is trying hard to get it.

"I have but one copy of my address to the Senate. I don't believe you want mine. I spoke to the House, using no paper, but giving, in the fewest words possible, the reasons for passing such a law. Facts and briefness is what is appreciated by such a body.

"Another thing: you should have your bill introduced by a man of prominence. One who is with the dominant party, and who can carry what he undertakes. You can help by requesting every women's organization in Iowa to write to their Senator and Representative urging them to vote for the bill. The Women's Club of Des Moines should be a help in the work.

"I hope your State Congress will be most successful. I think you will find it advisable to work on lines pursued by other states, grouping the Parents' Associations about the public schools. Uniformity of work will strengthen the National movement.

"I hope you are quite well by now, and that this letter will help you."

In September of that year, 1902, Mrs. Hillis, alert to seize every advantage to secure better juvenile care, went before the "Quarterly Conference of the State Board of Control and the heads of the various state institutions" and asked that in Des Moines and all other cities where there were truant officers as provided by a new state law, such officers serve also as probation officers. She declared that through

the press, public opinion could be aroused to wield great influence in the matter so that these truant officers might be empowered to act without waiting two years for some special act of the legislature on the subject. She asked for the establishment of juvenile courts as soon as possible; for the better care of delinquent children; and for a state appropriation providing a support of one dollar a week to be paid for the care of each delinquent child given care in a home. "Make the delinquent parents feel that this child of theirs is also a child of the state, and that the state is interested in the education and development of that child."

Mrs. Hillis wrote to Jane Addams of Chicago's Hull House asking for information about the operation of the Illinois law and on May 22, 1903, Miss Addams sent the information and added, "if the inclosed matter does not give you all the information you desire, will you kindly let me know."

November and December of 1903 were busy months for those interested in the passage of a Juvenile Court law. In November the approval of the Des Moines Women's Club was obtained for the proposed legislation, and the club went on record with a resolution pledging its support. "The club women are almost a unit in endorsement of the proposed legislation," a newspaper account said. "The bills of the states operating such a law are being carefully compared and the best features in all will be adapted to Iowa needs. The preliminary work is being done by a committee from the Mothers' Congress, and the bill will be carefully drawn by a prominent attorney after it has been examined, criticized, and amended by various experts in sociological work. The matter was presented to the Women's Club by Mrs. Isaac L. Hillis, who is enthusiastic, and a great worker in the agitation for the Juvenile Court."

Strong support for the movement poured in from every corner of the state. Mothers' clubs, women's clubs, federations, labor unions, reform and social welfare groups, lawyers, judges, and many, many others declared a willingness to help the Congress in its fight. Petitions were signed; resolutions were passed; legislators were contacted.

Senator Warren Garst of Coon Rapids was invited by the Iowa Congress to present their bill to the legislature. "Mr. Garst," an undated and unidentified newspaper clipping reads, "has not pledged himself, but has indicated in a letter received this morning by Mrs. Hillis that he is in hearty sympathy with the movement and promises to hold a conference on the subject with the officers of the congress within the course of a few days. In connection with the agitation for the passage of this bill a mass meeting to be held in the auditorium of the Y.M.C.A. has been planned for December 10, and this morning Mrs. Hillis appeared before the Ministerial Association and asked that an invitation card be left at every home visited by the canvassers for the Sunday school census, urging attendance at this meeting. Governor A. B. Cummins and officers of the various charitable institutions of the city have promised to be present and give addresses on the advantages to be gained with such a law in force. Mrs. Hillis appealed to the ministers to each devote one sermon to the cause. In regard to the care of arrested children in Des Moines, Mrs. Hillis said: 'In Des Moines we have a miserable system of taking care of these little folks. The only place for the detention of these young people is one small room, the most of which is cut up into pigeonholes just large enough for a cot and a chair. In these the children sleep and during the day are all allowed to mingle in the small remaining space. The contaminating influence of a few bad boys in this cage with a number of little girls can readily be realized. There have been as many as thirty there at once. These children are fed but black coffee with bread and molasses with soup for dinner.' The facts presented in that interview appear to have been new and shocking to the women who read them. On November 22, the *Des Moines Daily News* carried the story of the resulting deepened interest in the situation:

A diet of bread and molasses with black coffee without cream or sugar, with the addition of soup for dinner, for the little children detained at the police station, together with other conditions there, has aroused the interest of the Mothers' Club and the Women's Club of Des Moines and is responsible for a movement for a detention home. It is claimed that the children are kept in the station

without any chance for free, fresh air in the summertime, and that boys of eighteen, bordering on incorrigibility, are kept in the same room with little girls.

On December 10 the symposium was held at the Y.M.C.A. as scheduled. Mrs. Hillis presided over the meeting and explained its purpose. "The juvenile court movement," she said, "was begun in Illinois five years ago when Mrs. Lucy Flower⁴ and Judge Hurd of Chicago started the idea of investigating the causes of crimes committed by young children." After describing the Illinois law, she gave the Colorado law as an example, also, of what could be accomplished. "In that state," she said, "parents can be fined for refusing to care properly for their children, and persons aiding the performance of crime by children can be fined and imprisoned."

One of the features of the meeting, which was "well attended by judges, professors, and civic leaders," was the reading of a letter Mrs. Hillis had received from Judge Tuthill. Under date of December 1, Tuthill wrote that "the plans outlined in the juvenile court law are simply an application of common sense rules, recognizing that all children are in need of parental care; we recognize this truth in cases in our own families. All wise parents endeavor to give their children proper consideration, for they recognize the fact that without this care they would inevitably, especially in great cities, go to ruin. Thousands of children found in our streets have not such parental care and are speedily going wrong for the want of it. The State stands in 'loco Parentis' to all children, and where a child is found, who for any reason has become delinquent for the want of proper parental care, the State should enter upon the discharge of its duty and give the child such care.

"Heretofore, the State has only given the policeman with his club, police cells, jails and prisons to children who, before they know what crime really was, committed some act which in an adult would be a crime; punishes them for it and throws them into constant companionship of maturer

⁴A search of local records fails to reveal anything more about Mrs. Flowers' part in the juvenile court movement.

criminals where their delinquency speedily develops into criminality.

"I think three-fourths, at least, of the criminals which, during my nearly seventeen years of experience in the Circuit and Criminal Courts, have come before me have been youths who have developed by lack of this parental care into mature and deliberate criminals.

"Under the juvenile court law, children under sixteen years of age are not to be treated or considered as criminals, and the purpose of the law is to give them such parental care, through probation officers (men and women), as will place them in the right course.

"I think the success of the work has been remarkable, although we lack facilities for doing it. What we need are homes and schools in the country to which children can be sent. By homes, I mean cottages presided over by a house father and a house mother; by schools, I mean those with good teachers where the children can learn something of family life; manual training work shops, barns with all manner of live stock in them, and farms where they may be taught horticulture, as well as agriculture, and where they can be kept from one to three years.

"It has been demonstrated that with such care and treatment even those children who have been indicted and convicted of crime, can be, ninety per cent of them, reclaimed and transformed into good citizens.

"Experience has demonstrated that unless those children are cared for and given the needed parental care, it will not be many years before the State will have to care for them in its prisons, at unremunerative labor.

"I maintain that it is far better to build such homes and schools than to build prisons and penitentiaries.

"This movement for giving parental care to children has spread all over the state and I think men and women who have considered the subject agree that it is not only our moral and religious, but our patriotic duty to provide this care for these little ones.

"If only all the good people could be informed as to what should be done for these children and public senti-

ment could be awakened, I believe it would be the greatest step forward toward the prevention of criminality that was ever taken."

Judge Gifford L. Robinson, representing the state board of control, declared at this meeting that Iowa was "twenty-five years behind" in its work for delinquent children. "Iowa has no system for the protection of children. There is no law for the suspension of sentence; no parole and no reformatory in the proper sense of the word. We should prevent crime rather than punish it. In Iowa 20 per cent of the convicts are less than twenty years of age and 90 per cent of them are from the poor classes. Prisons have become schools of crime. The juvenile courts will prevent this deplorable condition."

Justice Frank E. Duncan made a "scathing attack upon the wine-rooms of the city, and declared they were responsible for more crimes than any other influence. He asked why they were not closed and the owners punished under the law, and wanted to know if the saloon element was so strong that men with power could not afford to enforce the laws.

"John Beardsley, of the Associated Charities, spoke of the best method of presenting the matter before the legislature, and thought it best to ask for only a part of the system at one time."

In an address, *A Worker Among Street Boys*, Mr. Weeks, whom it has not been possible to more definitely identify, spoke of the "evil examples of the police stations and home life.

"Prof. F. I. Herriott of Drake University said the judges of the country condemned the practice of huddling criminals together, and advised isolation, as in the case of epidemics of disease. He said that the spirit of criminality was fostered by permitting criminals to be in each other's company.

"Mrs. S. F. Prouty and Mrs. A. B. Shaw pledged the co-operation of the [Des Moines] Women's club in the movement, and said the children had the sympathy of every mother who was interested in their salvation."

The detailed news story from which these quotations were taken made no mention of several prominent persons who were advertised to appear on the program at this juvenile court meeting.

A letter Judge Tuthill wrote to Mrs. Hillis the following month, January 10, 1904, indicates that the proposed bill had not yet been finally drafted. "In reply to yours just at hand," Tuthill wrote, "would say that I would provide in the bill for paid probation officers, with at least one in every county, and two in every county with a population over fifty thousand, or perhaps three. Judge Cole will be better able to decide upon this question than I can. The officers should be paid by the county upon the approval of the judge of the juvenile court, fixing the salary in the law at such sum as the judge thinks proper under the circumstances. The probation officers here who are paid, are paid through voluntary subscription and the salary averages from fifty to sixty dollars a month.

"The Indiana law I like really better than our own, as they have made some improvements, as to paying board money for children. We have it in our law but it has never been successfully carried out with us. The Children's Home and Aid Society endeavor to raise money for this purpose but we had such poor success in keeping the children in homes provided that I am not able to say what is best in that respect.

"I fear you would have difficulty in raising money to pay probation officers by voluntary subscriptions. Here in Chicago a large number of very wealthy people who are charitably inclined and able to give, and want to give, like to feel they are doing something in this child saving work, themselves, so contribute.

"I think, perhaps, you could get along without a Detention Home, by simply notifying the parents, fixing time, place, etc. I do this here and really have no difficulty in getting the child into court. This, of course, would overcome the expense of a Home.

"What is best to be done in any instance is generally determined by existing conditions at the time and place.

You, Judge Cole, and others interested in this work, are much better able to appreciate your conditions than I am, and I would feel much hesitancy in advising you, except very tentatively, as to what to do.

"Act on your own best judgment and you will probably act more wisely than if out-siders say what you ought to do."

Mrs. Schoff, who had now succeeded to the presidency of the National Congress gave conflicting advice with respect to probationary work in a letter dated January 11. "I enclose our laws. They are made to conform to our State Constitution. Constitutions differ greatly; therefore one state is little guide for another except in the main thought.

"Our probation work is far better than where the positions are paid by the public. We pay all our officers. We have ten now. I have raised the money. I believe the women should do this to secure the best service. Volunteer officers are of no account."

"Our laws pertain to the whole state. Our constitution does not permit laws that relate to cities and towns. All come under the same laws. . . .

"Your first need is to have the lawyer who draws your bill especially conversant with your constitutional law.

"I am glad you are still working at this, and hope you may succeed."

Ben B. Lindsey, at thirty-four, had become famous as the judge of the juvenile court in Denver, where proper administration of the law had resulted in a ninety per cent decrease in truancy. Confident that he could aid the Iowa Congress in the work for the establishment of a law for its own state, Mrs. Hillis wrote to him in January, asking him to come to Des Moines to address called meetings, and, if possible, the legislature.

Under date of January 11 he replied: "I think that I could be with you on the 7th of February if you could have an evening meeting at one of the churches. I would be

⁸The important thing to note here is that the disagreement between Tuthill and Mrs. Schoff was merely in who was to do the paying, they both heartily agreed that the probation officer should be a paid worker.—Editor.

glad to speak on the subject which interests you under the title of 'The Child and the State.' I think it very important to get a union meeting of the churches, as we found such meetings here did as much as any one thing to arouse public sentiment for our laws.

"I feel certain that I could get transportation, so there would be no expense attached to the trip. In case you arrange for the meeting, I think it would be well to get the presence of the Governor and the Legislative Committee having charge of the bill."

With Mrs. A. B. Cummins as one of the persons in Des Moines concerned with child welfare, Mrs. Hillis sought the aid of her friend Governor Cummins. Writing to the Governor in the forepart of January she asked him to make a special recommendation for the enactment of a juvenile court law in his biennial message. This the Governor was unable to do, partly because the request was received too late, and also, he explained, because he thought himself "not sufficiently familiar with the details of the bill which it was proposed to urge, to speak of it otherwise than in the general paragraph" devoted to it in the message. The Governor closed his reply by adding, "You can command me for all that I can do in the way of better provision in the criminal laws for our boys and girls."

Amply proving himself a friend to the proposed measure, however, the Governor's biennial report declared that

There ought to be a marked difference between the treatment given to the mature and the immature criminal. By far the greater number of the boys and girls who are arrested and convicted, could be saved from lives of wrongdoing, if intelligent and merciful supervision were exercised at the time they first violate the law. It is cruel to them and hurtful to the state to consign them to the association of hardened and habitual lawbreakers. There is no subject which better deserves your careful thought than this.

Judge Ben Lindsey demonstrated his deep interest in the Iowa project—and his diplomacy—by writing a full letter to Governor Cummins under date of February 3:

"I have had the honor to receive some communications from Mrs. Cora B. Hillis, of Des Moines, in regard to the Juvenile Court of Denver. Mrs. Hillis has requested that I

might attend a meeting in Des Moines in behalf of similar legislation proposed in your state. I should be only too glad to assist in such excellent legislation.

"We have really had the Juvenile Court in Denver for something over three years, and I think its practical working has been more than demonstrated. It meets with the almost unanimous approval of our people.

"The work of the Court here was referred to by our former Governor and by our present Governor in their public addresses to the Legislature. Under separate cover I have the honor to send you some information regarding the Juvenile Court of Denver, and sincerely hope that your present legislature will adopt similar laws to our own and those of some other states. I prefer the Colorado juvenile system because it holds parents and others to a rigid accountability for the moral welfare of their children. I enclose in this letter one of a series of articles I have been writing for the *Denver Republican* and the *Rocky Mountain News* upon the juvenile problem in the cities of this country. If you could find the time and, because of the unfortunate length of the article I am compelled to say, have the patience to read the enclosed, I believe it will give you a fair idea of the importance of our laws holding parents responsible. There is no similar law anywhere in this country, and a juvenile court law is two-thirds lacking, in my opinion, without the feature here referred to."

Lindsey's letter, dated the very day the proposed juvenile court law was introduced into the Iowa Senate, together with the enclosed information, was forwarded by Governor Cummins on February 19 to C. C. Dowell, chairman of the Senate judiciary committee into whose charge the bill had been committed.

There has been some confusion as to who actually wrote the Iowa Juvenile Court bill. Although Mrs. Hillis is usually credited with having been its author, other accounts say that it was written by Judge Chester C. Cole, of Des Moines, a former Chief Justice of the Iowa State Supreme Court, who in 1904 was dean of the Drake Law School, and whose

name has been several times mentioned in the correspondence quoted above. The bill was actually a collaboration. Mrs. Hillis, as this history has shown, was in possession of vast amounts of material relating to such laws, and knew what she and the other workers wanted for Iowa; Judge Cole, who was impressed with the merits of the cause and had the legal knowledge necessary for the drafting of the bill, knew better what they would be most likely to get. Together they worked out a measure which they believed would pass. Though modified several times in an effort to "make it a more opular measure", the bill introduced was substantially the product of their cooperative labors.

Although in its original draft⁶ form the bill provided that the probation officers created by the proposed act were to receive no compensation from the public treasury, a later modification provided that these officers should be paid by the county commissioner in counties where the population was over 50,000 inhabitants. This was a reflection of the different advice given by Mrs. Schoff of Pennsylvania and Judge Tuthill of Illinois as to the merits of publicly or privately paid workers. And even this provision was finally eliminated in the bill actually introduced. The press, in commenting upon the proposed payment of probation officers by county commissioners, said "it is asserted that it is wise to do this as volunteer service is not always dependable."

"Claiming that the needs of neglected and incorrigible children are just as urgent in the smaller towns and counties as in the great cities, Mrs. Hillis is devoting her time at the present to reaching mothers in the rural districts, interesting them in the work with the hope of bringing pressure to bear upon legislators from these districts.

"The law, as prepared, is elastic enough to include juvenile courts for towns of 5,000 and upward.

⁶Of the numerous drafts of the proposed law, three are known to be preserved, a carbon of one of the later drafts in Mrs. Hillis' collection, the original bill as introduced, and the bill as submitted by the committee. The latter two are in the Iowa State Public Archives in care of the Department of History and Archives.

"Senator George Dunham of Madison [actually Delaware] County has been selected to introduce the bill which represents the culmination of three years' work on the part of the Iowa Mothers' Congress."

This undated press report was obviously based upon one of the earlier drafts of the proposed bill, for it mentions still another feature which failed to appear in the official bill. A copy of one of the drafts of the proposed law carrying alterations in Mrs. Hillis' handwriting, shows that Section 1 originally read: "In each county in this state containing a city having a population of five thousand or more, according to the last Federal or State census, there is hereby established a Juvenile Court" A heavy line drawn through the phrases "containing a city having a population of five thousand or more, according to the last Federal or State census," made the section read: "In each county in this state there is hereby established a Juvenile Court" And so it appeared in the bill introduced.

The bill for "An Act to Establish a Juvenile Court, and to Regulate the treatment and control of dependent, neglected and delinquent children" was introduced in the Senate by Senator George Dunham of Delaware County on February 3. The bill, known as Senate File 90, was referred to the judiciary committee of which Dunham was a member.

According to the capitol press of the day, it was reported that "there has been introduced in the State Legislature a bill which provides for a Juvenile court in every county in the state. In this court shall be tried all incorrigible children, or any child brought up for any offense that would receive consideration in the district or police court."

"The bill is the result of much hard work on the part of the club women of the various mothers' clubs throughout the state. Mrs. Isaac Lea Hillis, who is state president of the Iowa State Mothers' Club has worked untiringly in the interest of the bill, and in the work of drafting it. The plan outlined by the bill does away with the practice of bringing small children into the courts where hardened criminals are tried.

"This intelligent move along the lines of reforming criminals earlier in life is the idea of earnest women over the state, and in their opinion this bill constitutes the most feasible plan to get the children away from bad influences. Should a child be convicted of any offense, the judge may remand it to one of the state industrial schools, but the first effort made will be to obtain a home in a good family where the child will know the guidance of adopted parents."

As introduced by Senator Dunham, the bill⁷ provided for the creation of a new and separate juvenile court in each county of the state, to be served by either a district court judge or a superior court judge designated by their respective courts. Separate court rooms and separate records were also required for such a court. The proposed law set forth three classes of minor children with whom it was to deal, exclusively, the dependent, neglected, and the delinquent. Describing each category in detail, and explicitly stating that its provisions applied only to those "under the age of sixteen years, and up to their seventeenth birthday," the measure set forth procedures for the care of dependent and neglected children to be taken over by state institutions, private associations licensed by the state, and by foster homes. Such organizations and homes were given certain legal rights with respect to the child as guardian and as pertaining to adoption.

In the provisions for delinquent children came the matter of probation officers, the subject of much thought and discussion by the proponents of the measure. As offered, the bill provided for no pay by a public agency. The probation officers' function was described as that of an aid to the judge and as a guardian of the interests of the youths brought before the court.

Another feature of the bill which loomed important to the friends of the bill was the detention home. Much of the agitation in favor of a juvenile court had risen out of justified complaint against the mingling of immature offenders

⁷Legislative Records, in the Iowa State Public Archives, in the Department of History and Archives. Both the original and the amended provisions noted later are to be found in this division of the Department.

with experienced and hardened violators and habitual despoilers of the social order. It was specifically commanded that "No court or magistrate shall commit a child not yet having reached his seventeenth birthday, to jail or police station, but . . . shall keep such child in some suitable place provided by the city or county outside the enclosure of any jail or police station." And when sentenced to confinement, even then the youths were not to be placed among adult prisoners.

The future of the juvenile court bill was now in the hands of the legislature.

Judge Lindsey's visit to Des Moines in the interest of such a measure, originally planned for early February, was finally arranged for the forepart of March. The plan for bringing Judge Tuthill to Des Moines was, for some reason abandoned, but the Hon. T. D. Hurley, editor of the *Juvenile Court Record* of Chicago, arranged to come in his place.

Judge Lindsey was a guest in the Hillis home during his two day stay in the city—a stay during which he must have had but little rest, so crowded were his engagements. Mass-meeting audiences, called together for the obvious purpose of further stimulating public sentiment, were stirred by the two forceful, authoritative speakers from out of town.

On March 10, the second day of their visit, the movement to establish a juvenile court in Iowa was given a "powerful impetus" by the addresses made by Judge Lindsey and Judge Hurley. "Both men addressed the legislature in the House chamber after the close of the meetings of the pioneer law makers. The addresses were listened to by an interested audience which completely filled the House chamber," according to an account in the *Des Moines Capital*.

Other forces were at work favoring the court bill. Although the name of G. W. Burnham, Vinton, Judge of the Seventeenth Judicial District of Iowa, has not before entered this account of some of the events that led up to the enactment of the Iowa juvenile court law, a letter written by him on March 15 proves that he was working actively for the

proposed legislation. "My dear Mrs. Hillis," he said, "your letter received. I am in communication with some of the members of the Legislature, and believe the juvenile court bill will pass both houses without a doubt. Had a splendid letter from Senator Courtwright [Waterloo] in answer to mine, and he will give his earnest support to the measure. May come down Thursday or Friday if it seems best, but am almost persuaded to believe that I can do better work by letter than by my presence.

"The 'Adult Delinquent' bill is all right and should become a law, but I am afraid if we attempt too much in this session we will get nothing. Would it not be better to urge the Juvenile Court bill at this session and let the other go over until the next. However, the friends of the measure on the ground can best determine this matter. My opinion however, from this point of view, would be not to urge both at this session."

The reference in this letter to the "Adult Delinquent" bill has a connection, without a doubt, with a statement Mrs. Hillis is said to have made when she was addressing a mothers' club on the juvenile court bill. "She spoke especially of a measure which will soon be introduced, asking enactment of a law that will prohibit a parent placing children in the reform school in order to enable the one who should afford them protection, a chance to marry again."

Judge Hurd and Judge Lindsey had urged that criminally neglectful parents be subject to fine and as early as December 5, 1903, a juvenile court article in the *Des Moines Register* had closed with: "Among the most important clauses to be inserted in the bill are those providing for a special house of detention for juvenile prisoners, and one giving the judge authority to fine a delinquent parent, when it is shown that the child's offense is the fault of the parent rather than of the child."

Meanwhile the legislative mill was grinding its grist. The juvenile court bill was in the hands of a Senate judiciary sub-committee of three, Whipple of Benton, Molsberry of Louisa, and Stookey of Decatur counties. This committee reported certain substantial amendments, which, adopted

by the full committee, were submitted with the judiciary committee's report filed March 12, recommending that the bill when so amended be passed.⁸

These amendments carefully defined the juvenile court as a part of the district court, not a new and separate court as originally proposed. The age limit was made "under sixteen years," thus eliminating the anomaly included in the Dunham bill. A significant and undoubtedly acceptable amendment was one which eliminated from the definition of "dependent children or neglected children," that class of children "peddling or selling any article, or singing or playing any musical instrument, upon the street." This amendment freed such youngsters as newsboys, shoe shine lads, and other needy children working at traditionally youthful means of earning money.

Other amendments, while protecting the juvenile offender and maintaining the probation officer's duties, prescribed the court procedures as similar to those in the district court. On the whole the heart of the law remained unchanged.

Two days later, on March 14, on the motion of Senator Dunham, the bill was re-committed to the judiciary committee for further consideration. After two days time the committee reported back to the Senate a substitute bill with the recommendation for its passage. Actually, the substitute bill, still known as Senate File 90, merely incorporated the original committee amendments and offered not a single change in the bill not previously reported.

A possible reason for the re-introduction of an integrated bill was the introduction of a companion bill of identical form in the House of Representatives by Representative David C. Mott of Audubon County, on March 18. Known as House File 397, this measure was committed to the House judiciary committee.

As the legislative session was in full swing and problems

⁸The legislative record of the juvenile court measure is based on House and Senate Journals for the Thirtieth General Assembly and the legislative committee books, the latter from the Iowa State Public Archives, Department of History and Archives.

of large moment pressed for attention, the special problem of the proponents of the measure was to secure a place on the Senate calendar rather than in countering any possible opposition. Senator Dunham had Senate File 90 made a special order of business in the Senate for March 23. The lack of any opposition is indicated by the 42-0 vote by which the measure passed the Senate on that date. Correcting the title to make it conform with its provisions including the district court law the bill was sent to the House, where it quickly joined House File 397 in awaiting action in the judiciary committee.

Eight days later, April 1, the chairman of the House judiciary committee, Nathan Kendall, reported the committee's recommendation that House File 397 be indefinitely postponed, in effect killing the bill.* But on the same date the same committee recommended that Senate File 90 be passed without amendment. Again it was merely the problem of securing space on the crowded House calendar. The legislature was nearing the end of the session. Representative Mott secured approval for making Senate File 90 a special order of business in the lower house on April 6. On this day, April 6, 1904, the juvenile court bill passed without opposition, 88-0, and on July 4 the measure became the law of Iowa.

Throughout the state there had been favorable newspaper support of the bill. There was the same favorable comment upon the victory achieved by the Iowa Congress of Mothers. "Petitions circulated by women were poured in upon the legislature," one editorial in a Des Moines paper said. "Two distinguished juvenile court judges who had made a success of the system in other states spoke at a

*This was an unorthodox and dangerous method of disposing of two bills of identical form. The usual procedure is to have the sponsor of the measure urge the substitution of the bill passed first by the other house, if that is the case, for the one originating in the body then taking action. This saves a delay of having an identical bill go through the committee mill again, and saves time, since two houses can consider the same matter at the same time.

In this instance the method of substituting was first to "kill" the one bill by indefinite postponement before considering the other. Technically to do so could have made it impossible if any House member had objected to act on S.F. 90, save by a two-thirds vote. A standard legislative rule is that a subject once disposed of by negative vote or indefinite postponement can not be acted upon or considered again that session except by a special vote.

That no one challenged the House action indicates conclusively the non-controversial nature of the bill as finally considered.

joint session of the legislature in its favor; but the greatest credit for the passage of the law is due to Mrs. Isaac Lea Hillis, president of the Iowa Congress of Mothers, whose untiring efforts in its behalf have at last been crowned with success.

"The greatest benefits of this humane provision for delinquent children will only be gained if it is wisely administered. The detention house and the probation officers are the pivotal points on which the success of the law will hang. . . .

"As the law carried with it no appropriation, this matter of the detention house and its finances will have to be worked out by the philanthropic people of our city.

"Fully as important are the probation officers, who at first will have to be volunteers entirely—men and women who will give their time and best efforts to looking after the children who are brought before the judge of the juvenile court. . . .

"In the future the probation officer must be, and will be, especially trained and educated, and the state will see the necessity of expending the needed money to develop this system to its highest usefulness, but for the present we must work out our own salvation."

The remarks of this editor relative to the need for philanthropic citizens and the temporary aspects of unpaid volunteer probation officers suggests that part of the unanimity of the legislature was due to the fact that it imposed no financial requirements upon any county or judicial district.

While the subsequent history of the juvenile court in Iowa as it operated under the law whose creation is sketched here is another story, it will be proper to add a few remarks concerning the establishment of the detention home for Des Moines. The struggle was a bitter one with harsh words on both sides. Mrs. Hillis, president of the board of managers appointed by the court to "manage, control, furnish and administer the affairs of said Home under the direction of the District Court," was supported, as always, by the women of the mothers' clubs. The Iowa Humane

Society was an especially powerful ally, as was the Des Moines Women's Club. The opposition came from certain local politicians who drew upon greed and public apathy for their support.

"Provisions for a paid probation officer, and for a detention home, were made by the next general assembly, and the juvenile court of Des Moines, and its detention home, today rank among the best in the country. After the passage of the juvenile law, Mrs. Hillis was appointed by the Court, chairman of a committee of five to secure and equip a detention home. After a time, however, Polk County generously provided for all these needs."

The mild and brief account of that two year period of the struggle to obtain a detention home in Des Moines can never convey the picture of the forces of good, and of indifference, that were at work at that time.

—Mrs. Hazel Hillis, of Des Moines, is the daughter-in-law of Mrs. Cora Bussey Hillis, a founder of the juvenile court law in Iowa.

THE IOWA GAME BOOK OF GEORGE E. POYNEER

EDITED BY JAMES R. HARLAN

More common to the East and South than to the Middle West, the game book is a log, as it were, of the strictly shooting or hunting record of the writer. It is a diary in the special sense that it exclusively devotes itself to one subject and one subject alone, the game record of the hunter.

Probably the most interesting Iowa game diary in existence is the Game Book of George E. Poyneer, of Clinton, the deceased father of Fred J. Poyneer, present member of the Iowa State Conservation Commission. While the record begins in 1869, in Penn Yan, New York, and the last entry is at Clinton, Iowa, September 9, 1877, just the Iowa portion is here given.

It is to be remembered that this record was kept during market hunting times, when thousands upon thousands of Iowa game birds and animals were being hunted for shipment to Eastern markets for sale. But George E. Poyneer was not a market hunter. In fact he was one of the first in the Middle West to agitate for a closed spring season on migratory birds.

Employed in the office of C. Lamb & Sons, lumber millers, a successful man and a leader in his community, George Poyneer loved to hunt. He was human. His diary, August 23, 1874, reads, "I killed four on the first rise. It was delightful. The dog acted well." This semi-spontaneous entry may well be judged the key to the whole log.

The ornithologists will notice in this journal 30 passenger pigeons killed May 31, 1874. The passenger pigeon was extinct in Iowa in 1903, and extinct in the world in 1914.

They will notice 17 woodcocks killed July 3. This bird is rare in Iowa now. He will notice an entry of 73 prairie chicken killed August 22. Prairie chicken now rarely nest in Iowa. He will notice wood duck, plover, ruffed grouse, swans, sand hill cranes, and other now rare birds, legally and ethically hunted.

The hunter will remark the use of sculling, stools, decoys, of packs, and other terms, some obsolete, some still in use. The marksman will see and understand, "33 birds with 35 shots," "Birds in fine condition and layed well," "Jack and I tied with 50 (birds) each. The most interesting incident of my shooting career," "Birds scarce and very wild," "Used No. 4s and 5 dram P 2 W." The hunter will go on some of the delightful hunting excursions with George Poyneer and his friends.

The game technicians and administrators will notice the above points and many others. "I got disgusted at shooting ducks from the wild work of green-horns. There was no show at the ducks." The scarcity of rabbits, with only 3 taken in 1874, a year when the diarist took a total of 546 separate pieces of game. Many will understand "We killed 9 birds quicker than lightning, and down came an old Granger on horseback, and oh, how mad!" They will notice, "Complaint of scarcity of prairie chicken," with a day's entry of 22 prairie chicken, 2 woodcock, and 5 wood ducks killed. They will notice, "There was no night shooting and I haven't seen any here."

The general reader will see early Iowa hunting as it was universally enjoyed but seldom recorded. Without further comment we submit Geo. E. Poyneer's "Game Book," for Iowa, exactly as it came from his hand.

AT CLINTON IOWA

March 31/74

Ben Woodward¹ & I went on board the good steamer Chauncy at 10 P. M. put on boat and traps² and next morning at 4:30 A. M. we were landed on an island in the Mis-

¹Ben Woodward was a famous duck shooter of eastern Iowa, well known throughout mid-west shooting circles.

²Equipment and shooting gear.

Mississippi in Dark Shoot we built a fire got our breakfast and as soon as day light come we launched our boat went up the river a little ways Ben got a sitting shot in some Pintails and made a very long shot at a Mallard with his Remington. Wind blowing very hard and indications of storm. we started down the river. Not many duck moving. Down near Running Slough we began seeing more. Ben did some fine work sculling on Mallard and Pintail I did the shooting. Hard snow storm came on made it very unpleasant. When we were near Running Slough I did a good thing on some Red Head. Then we struck in slough did not get much shooting until we got half way down. We landed went to a house and cooked some coffee. "How is it Ben." Had some fine shooting at Teal & Blue Bill and some Mallard. Good many Pin tail & Mallard going into lake near Turkey Slough but we could not do anything with them. Teal most plenty saw some comical maneuvering in a large flock. Did wicked work on a flock of Blue Bill. Flock of Prairie Chicken flew over us as we were running down the slough got home about 7½ P. M.

33 Duck.

April 17/74

Got up at 5 A. M. went up on bottoms above the house thinking I might find some Snipe and saw enough. there was a nice show of birds. I had some fine sport and thinking my watch had run down I hurried back to the house to find it only 6½ A. M. The birds had just come in layed first rate it being an icy & frosty morning I could have made a big bag if I could have had the time

Ben killed 6 Snipe on 16 inst(?)

13 Snipe

Apl 18

My shoot set the boys in the fever Ben came up at 7 A. M. we went over the same ground the birds were scarce and wild some body had been there besides me we got back at 10 A. M.

14 Snipe

April 23/74

Went up on the bottom after work found Col Noyes

there did not see but very few birds and they were wild

1 Snipe

April 30

Went up after work on the Snipe ground saw a few birds they layed quite well I did not manage them right. They were in very nice order

2 Snipe

July 4

Ben his brother in law and I started at 3 A. M. went up the river to Turkey slough very warm day I did some poor shooting saw a few wood duck

12 Woodcock 1 Duck

July 14/74

Juckett³ and I went down on the island did not start until near 4 P. M. We had a splendid shoot Don acted well hit my birds very hard one in particular could not find but a wing tip

11 Woodcock 1 Pigeon

July 21

Ben and I went down on the island Woodcock very scarce did not see but one saw quite a number of duck

3 Wood duck

Aug. 1

Went over by the ferry landing saw a good many shore birds and a few duck.

1 Woodcock 1 Wood duck

Aug. 5

Juckett and I started at 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ A. M. went down on the island had a nice little shoot saw quite a good many duck More Mallard than I expected to see got back at 8 A. M.

5 Wood duck 3 Mallard

Aug. 15

In company with Henry Woodman and Dick Hawthorn we drove out to Dick Lyons left at 1 P. M. and got on the ground at 3 P. M. had a delightful ride. I used Don and

³Frank Juckett, boyhood hunting companion of Poyneer in the East, came west with the latter to Clinton. Juckett and Poyneer both moved to Cedar Rapids at a later date and hunted together as old men.

he got away and flushed some chickens in a corn field I had one shot and missed them then went down in the bottom come onto a large fine covey they were fine birds the dog acted very bad and run them on got up three other packs and the shooting was delightful but the dogs acted very bad my first chicken shoot and I vote them the birds to kill⁴ we had a fine tea at Lyons Charlie hunted with us got home at 11 P. M. well pleased

23 Chickens

Aug. 23

Got a livery horse Geo Gardener and I drove out to Lyon's found Charlie waiting for us we started as soon as I got there we found a fine pack of chickens just below the house in the corn they all got up at once I got down three Don acted well we got up one other fine brood I killed 4 on the first rise it was delightful the dog acted well had a fine meal at Lyons in the evening Got home in good season

13 Chickens

Aug. 30

Warm day went down on Beaver Island went into Rice slough a few duck and saw more Snipe than I had seen

3 Ducks 12 Snipe

Sept. 3

Left the office at 4 1/2 P. M. went down on Beaver in Rice slough a good many duck went out had a nice little shoot

8 Ducks

Sept. 5

Went down on Beaver Game scarce

2 Ducks 1 Snipe

Sept 7 & 15

Beaver Island

5 Duck 1 Snipe

4 "

Sept. 20

Henry Bonney and I started for the Meradosha⁵ at 3 A.

⁴Excellent sporting birds.

⁵Meradosha is a marsh on the Illinois side of the River at Clinton. Locally famous as an excellent hunting area, it was at one time drained, but is still good for shooting.

M. got there in good season and found it to be a great resort for ducks found lots of Snipe and upon the whole had a fine day got home 9½ Don did some good retrieving and acted nicely on Snipe.

21 Duck 23 Snipe

Sept. 24

Gliem [?] Wells and I started for the Meradosha at 3 A. M. had a miserable boat but we got there and found lots of shooters in the afternoon the wind blew pretty hard which made it all the better for shooting had some fine fun at the Snipe Charlie Mills shot first rate we cooked some game and had a good time and a hard pull home.

5 Ducks 46 Snipe

Oct. 4

Started at 3 A. M. for the Doshia alone used Jucketts boat and got there long before light very warm day and lots of shooters I got disgusted at shooting at ducks from the wild work of green horns⁶ there was no show at the ducks so I went at the Snipe I expected to find them very thick but the water had gone down and they were scarce I stopped shooting at noon and started for home. Saw 1 Partridge⁷

41 Snipe 2 Duck 1 Quail

Oct 11

Thought I would not start until after breakfast it was windy and cloudy just the day for ducks Juckett and I went over in the Cat tail and there was lots of Ducks got shooting near 10 A. M. I had fine fun at the Blue Wing teal had hard luck on large ducks but a good time in general There was no night shooting and I haven't seen any here⁸

30 Ducks

Oct 18

Jucket and I started out early it was very foggy the sun came out warm no day for ducks Juckett went home early I went out East of the Ferry landing to warm to do

⁶Inexperienced hunters, shooting while the ducks were still too high and out of range.

⁷Probably refers to a ruffed grouse.

⁸Night hunting, especially for wild turkeys, and, in the eastern states for passenger pigeons, was a sport Poyneer did not find practical in Iowa.

much walking found one covey of quail they were to small had a little fun with the chickens killed one in the morning while on my duck stand

1 Duck 1 Quail 3 Chickens

Oct 25

Ham Potter took me down near Camache and I came up the bottom. a beautiful day. Saw quite a number of Mallard in a slough could not get to them. found some snipe around the edges they were very fat. Don did not act well on some chickens found one covey of Quail he did quite well. He pointed a chicken beautifully

5 Snipe 6 Quail 1 Chicken
[illegible]

Jucket and I went out to Dick Lyons. expected to get some fine shooting near Goose Lake⁹ but the weather moderated and our shoot was a failure a great many ducks flying in the mornings but were wild. Lafe [Lamb]¹⁰ and Ben made a big bag a few days ago We were out two days killed

20 Ducks & some Snipe

Nov. 1

Lower end of Beaver Island.¹¹ weather very warm to pleasant for ducks all sitting in the river

9 Ducks

Nov. 8

Lower end of Beaver Jucket & I weather too fine

8 Ducks

Nov. 15

Lower end of Beaver with decoys the sun bothered me badly in the morning. I never saw ducks come to stools¹² any better did not shoot very good used the single gun and made some long shots. I am satisfied with good decoys fine shooting can be had here.

26 Ducks

⁹A nearby lake now partially drained, but still good for duck shooting.

¹⁰Lafe Lamb was George Poyneer's employer, owner of a lumber mill at Clinton.

¹¹An island on the Mississippi River close to the Illinois shore.

¹²Decoys.

Nov. 22

Foggy and unpleasant prospects of rain all the sloughs on Beaver island frozen up. Duck in large flocks saw an immense flock in Island below Beaver put in decoys but they did not come back

6 Ducks

Nov. 26

Went west of Lyons with Dick Hawthorn did not find any quail

2 Rabbits

Dec. 6

Crossed the bridge with Dash and went down East of Ferry landing. The old dog did fine after I showed him what I wanted. Staunch as a rock fine ranger and sure to make an extra dog 14 shots

12 Quail

Dec. 13

Jucket and I crossed the river in a boat near the Ferry landing. I got lost from him. I went South did not find but one bevy of quail. Old dog acted fine.

5 Quail 1 Rabbit

Dec. 20

Went over in Illinois with Old Dash nearly east of Fulton did some tall walking before I found the birds had hard luck in marking them down. Old dog did well in finding bevys but it was hard work for him to find wounded birds. I got up 5 Bevys all nice birds.

23 Quail

Total Game for 1874

Ducks	244
Snipe	182
Woodcock	24
Quail	51
Chicken	40
Pigeons	1
Rabbits	3
Squirrel	1

546

1875

January 3

Very cold day. I was foolish enough to start out found three beavies but I was so cold I could not shoot got home 2½ P. M.

3 Quail

March 28, 1875

Jucket and I went across to Beaver Island. Ice in the Sloughs & Lakes saw quite a good many duck flying. Ice out of upper end Goose Lake a good many Blue Bill in I used my single gun and made some very good & some very poor shots one very long one on Sheldrake¹³

5 Ducks

April 1

Jucket and I went across to the Ferry landing very few duck flying very windy and heavy rain came on. Ice began running on the way back got up snipe

2 Ducks

April 2

I went across the river very early intended to use stools froze up so hard could not get in¹⁴

1 Brant

April 4, 1875

We did not get off as early as we intended went to the lower end of Beaver Island the duck were flying thick before we got stools out set them on the East side of Lower Goose. Blue Bill and Red Head were flying thick but they did not see the stools very well at first until sun got up we had glorious shooting until 11 A. M. I did most of the shooting Juckets gun did not shoot very well got home at 6 P. M. Used No. 4s 5 dram [?] P 2 W¹⁵

40 Ducks 1 Pigeon

Got up at 6 A. M. went up on the bottom after Snipe used Old Dash got up two or three they were very wild. Juckett up yesterday morning killed 7

1 Snipe

¹³Sheldrake is the present-day name given to Mergansers, but in the 1870's the word commonly referred to shovelers or spoonbills.

¹⁴Ice or frozen marsh areas too hard for the boat to penetrate.

¹⁵Size and weight of shot used, together with the brand marks.

April

Got livery horse took old Dash and started for Goose Lake bottom. saw a good many Brant & Geese flying got on the ground 10½ A. M. Birds scarce and very wild frost last night a great deal ice in the ground and very hard walking worked hard until 4 P. M.

26 Snipe 11 Plover¹⁶ 3 Ducks

Went up and waked Juckett we went down on the bottom and had a splendid shoot got back to the office 9 A. M. I had

15 Snipe

Took Eds horse went out on the bottom very warm then went out to Harts Mill Pond and went around Camanche worked hard.

4 Snipe

Jack Anderson Frank E & I went to Goose Lake bottom very cold riding we had a merry time going out we found a good many birds below the road walking very hard birds in fine condition and layed well Dash made several points I shot badly in the afternoon got tired out. We shot about 4 hours and when we came to count game Jack & I tied on 50 each The most interesting incident of my shooting career

127 Snipe

Jack Anderson killed 6 Snipe Weight 29 oz.¹⁷

Chas. Wells and I went to Goose Lake bottom weather very threatening. began raining when we first got on the ground birds had about all left those we found were wild and very fat. found some very fine ground on west side of Creek below the road. Saw several Prairie Chickens nest. Dash pointed them well. Charlie made some very nice shots.

25 Snipe

May 31/75

Juckett and I went on Beaver Island

30 Pigeons¹⁸

¹⁶Which one of the four important kinds of plovers referred to here is not clear.

¹⁷Unusually heavy weight for snipe.

July 3

Juckett and I left the office at 2 P. M. and went on Beaver Island water very high did not find any birds until we got into head of Upper Goose then we found them quite plenty had a splendid shoot got back at 6 P. M. I used Dash

17 Woodcock

July 13

Juckett and I went over the above grounds did not find scarcely any birds

4 Woodcock

Aug. 1

Chas. Wells and I started for Goose Lake at 8 A. M. We had a nice [?] lively team. got to hunting at 10:30 windy and pleasant we found two broods of birds above the road I killed 10 out of one brood on first rise it bothered Chas to hit them went below the road in the afternoon and had some splendid shooting found two broods in the bottom in very wet ground

32 Chickens

15

Juckett and I went down on Beaver prospecting. Went in a dry slough at the upper end of Goose found Woodcock in very high grass Juckett used his Pointer Bob

9 Woodcock

Aug. 20

Oscar Morton Will Young and I arrived in Colo^{18a} a little after 2 P. M. got ready and drove north an elegant day but birds scarce hunted over a considerable ground 5 I. [?]

7 Chickens

21

Anderson, Austin & Wells came in on the midnight train we got off quite early and went N. W. elegant weather. farmers acted mean. Mr. Sonay in particular. saw quite

¹⁸Passenger pigeons. These birds were in those years extensively shot in Iowa and elsewhere as "market birds," and shipped in large quantities to eastern cities and dealers in such quality of game meat. Most of the river cities and many inland towns such as Waterloo and Fort Dodge had local dealers.

^{18a}Colo, on the Chicago, Northwestern line indicates another train trip to reach good hunting territory.

a good many ducks ate dinner near Cunninghams then drove N. W. had some splendid shooting Just at night Jack & I drove 3 large packs¹⁹ off one stubble down onto a piece of rolling prairie and such elegant shooting I never saw [Jack found (?) me?] I missed two shots in all day I bagged 35. Got lost in the woods.

55 Chickens

August 22/75

We went Northwest again I got into a pack early in the morning had a fuss with a Granger²⁰ but killed about all his birds went out the farthest we had been all Prairie and what a delight as far as the eye could reach in some directions without seeing a house saw some Sand Hill Cranes they looked like giraffes to me²¹. I did some strong walking we ate dinner with a decent farmer he showed us where to find some birds Jack raised an immense pack they went right out into the open prairie and what splendid shooting there was 20 in the pack we killed 18 of them. I did some very clean shooting on Old cocks. from the last nights experience we hurried toward home²² Jack and I went across a piece we killed nine birds quicker than lightning and down came an old Granger on horse back and oh how mad

73 Chickens

23

Oscar & Will went home at midnight we took Sankie [?] and went south good looking ground but birds scarce found a nice lot in the afternoon we found three nice packs near together I did some wild shooting got careless Joe did well in finding & holding came near getting lost on the Praries

52 Chickens

Oct. 3

Juckett and I went to be Meradosha expected a big

¹⁹"Pack" refers to a family or brood group, the birds all of an age.

²⁰This game book was kept in the days when the Patrons of Husbandry or the "Grangers" were active as social and political forces in the agrarian life of the country, especially the middle west. Granger here means a farmer, a word commonly applied to the organization due to the name given the local unit of the order.

²¹Present day hunters report the same impression.

²²Poyneer and Anderson got lost.

day on Snipe especially. Charlie rode down shooting poor more [?] ducks——before [?]

17 Ducks 14 Snipe

Oct. 10

Well, Juckett and I went to the Meradosha. Juckett went up above the point had lots of shooting but did poor killing. Charlie and I had some fine shooting a good many birds flying.

43 Ducks 8 Snipe

17

Anderson and self started at three o'clock for the Meradosha quite windy we made a draw [?]²³ with our boat and did not get to shooting until after 7 o'clock very plenty in the morning. Did some fair work on Teal very windy.

Lafe [Lamb] and Charlie [Elmerdorf] up the river had some good shooting. Saw Mat Temple at the mouth of the river.

34 Ducks

Lafe and I went down on lower Goose used decoys. One Canvas back came in but would not come to stool got back to the office at 10½ A. M.

11 Ducks

Oct. 24

Bob Huffman Chas. Wells & I went up the Meradosha above where I had been very warm to much so for good shooting the point was a good place for large ducks. Juckett came up on the opposite side and waded across much fun for us. Bob [dog] had rather watch the hogs. [?] Charlie and I went down on my old stand for night shooting they came in pretty well. I made a handsome double on Mallard. Mosquitoes very troublesome Juckett killed goose.

17 Duck 7 Snipe

31

Juckett and I went to the Meradosha water very low left boat at the R R Bridge and walked up to my old ground everything froze up. 5 Swan were sitting out in the middle

²³Drag, over a sandbar.

ice thick enough to hold up a Mallard very few flying started for home near noon found quite a good many coming in at the first bend did some very fine long shooting

16 Ducks 2 Snipe 2 Chickens

Nov. 4

Took boat and went down to lower end of Beaver Island used Decoys

5 Ducks

Nov. 7

Juckett & I went to the Meradosha water very low and few ducks used decoys at the second bend more Green Wing Teal than anything came back early.

4 Ducks

Nov. 11

Lafe and I went on the lower end of Beaver Island used decoys mostly Blue Bill flying

11 Ducks

14

Wm. Huffman Juckett & I went to Meradosha very few ducks principally Green Wing Teal water very low

6 Ducks 1 Snipe

Nov. 21

Juckett and I over in Illinois did not find but two bevy Quail I was using Wells Parker and did some poor shooting When coming home made a handsome double on a pair of Blue Bill

5 Quail 2 Ducks

Dec. 12

Juckett and I over in Illinois found one bevy of Quail east of the Ferry landing and used them up badly Dash & Bob did some nice work. I had a hard time killing my first Partridge but succeeded

1 Quail 9 Partridge 3 Rabbits

Total Game Killed, 1875

Brant 1

Ducks 216

Snipe 230

Chickens	171
Woodcock	30
Quail	14
Partridge	1
Pigeons	31
Plover	11
	<hr/>
	705

1876 Feby 28

Juckett and I went on Beaver Island rained in the morning Took the Retriever Frank Very few duck more shelldrakes than anything. Ice out

3 Ducks

March 5

Rained most all the forenoon. Juckett & I went down on Beaver Island near 1 P. M. Saw quite a good many Blue Bill flying over the East side of bridge

4 Ducks

7

Juckett and I went down on Beaver very cold and few ducks Used stools in lower Goose Good many shelldrakes flying

12 Ducks

March 12/76

Got up at 3 A. M. wind in north and cold. Juckett & I went to the Meradosha. Sailed most of the way very unpleasant Went up above Willow Island thought we would have some good shooting put out stools all the duck that were flying came over one flock Canvas back turn in I killed one Juckett did most of the shooting

21 Ducks

19

Juckett & I started out early with the intention of going to the Dosha but it began raining and hailing we stopped in lower goose Beaver Island very stormy two flocks of Canvas back came to the stools they came in fine style we killed 6 of them there was no duck flying so we picked up and went to the Dosha. They had been flying thick but stopped when we got there

Juckett and I up on the bottom found one Snipe and killed him

1 Snipe

Jack Anderson and I drove out to Goose Lake we went below the road in the forenoon drizzled most all the time birds were very wild. Went above the road in the afternoon birds were scattered found where they had been very plenty on the west side in a meadow no birds below the road on west side Lafe and Charlie up at Hansons Used Frank

97 Snipe

Juckett and I drove out to Hansons pleasant morning quite a good many Brant flying got on the ground early. The Gages came out there was but few birds. Juckett went way up near the lake. he found more birds I did some poor shooting when we came to dinner he lead me a good many. In the afternoon we drove down south on the ground Jack and I were on I did some good shooting killed 16 straight and 17 out of 18. Bob did some nice work

July 4

Juckett and I took team and went to the Dosha prospecting²⁴ went up near the middle crossing saw a good many Quail they came back across the country saw some partridge. Owing to the high water everything was covered. Dash did some retrieving

3 Woodcock

11

Juckett and I on Beaver Island to much water

3 Woodcock

Aug 4

Juckett and I went to the Dasha prospecting

11 Huffman and I on Beaver Island

3 Ducks

Aug 18

Juckett and I drove out to Hansons 4 dogs we worked

²⁴Prospecting for game in the Meradosha marshes.

all day very hard got up three kinds of chickens²⁵ and quite a good many old ones. found two Woodcock out in the middle of the bottom. played [illegible] trick on the Wood duck. Dug out a cow that was mired and nearly dead. John acted pretty well he stood it better than all the dogs.

The complaints come of the scarcity of Chickens²⁶

22 Chickens 2 Woodcock

5 Wood duck

Aug. 25

Strong and I went to Meradosha left boat near the mouth could not get in up on south side opposite Willow point some Geese came out. I waded across to the point. Did some fine killing with my heavy gun. Very warm coming back

13 Ducks

Sept. 3

Eastman Gardener, Dick Florimey [?] and I went down to Wapsie looked like rain had a fine lunch then I went prospecting found some good Woodcock ground and quite a number of birds had to leave the ground quite early. Saw some partridge

3 Woodcock 3 Pigeons 1 Duck

Sept. 10

Juckett and I went to the Meradosha in our new boats Ducks very scarce Saw quite a good many pigeons flying went up in the bluffs

1 Duck 1 Pigeon

Sept. 10

Went to the Meradosha night before and slept in my boat. Huffman came down in Juckets boat worked very hard went up above. Quite a show of ducks but seemed to fly [illegible]

11 Ducks

Sept. 24

Went to the Meradosha night before mosquitoes both-

²⁵By three kinds of chickens Poyneer refers to three different ages of chickens, all hatched the same season, but in different periods in different broods.

²⁶The prairie chicken is extremely scarce today too

ered badly. The first flight ducks came last night but few moving in morning and those very high

8 Ducks 2 Snipe

Oct. 1

Went to the Meradosha night before saw a good many in going up killed 3 Teal. Very cold night stopped at the Willows early in the morning I moved over to the opposite side and had some fine shooting. It made Cory [?] and all the rest open their eyes at the distances my gun would kill them the wind got very high during the day. In the afternoon I moved down to the lower bend. Mallard came in pretty well but had to shoot to far. Frank did some good work

Came up after dark

30 Ducks

Oct. 7 & 8

Wm. Huffman and I drove up to Jas Burtons on the Meradosha wind blew very hard went down in front of McGrans quite a good show of birds in the evening did some long shooting. Frank did well flock of Geese passed my stand just as I left it out very early in the morning Ducks did not fly much worked around all day found a good point in some canes below McGrans. Came home early Monday morning

27 Ducks 5 Snipe

Oct. 15

Chas Welles & I took Lafes team and drove down to the Wapsie one of the finest mornings I ever saw frosty I used Bob & Charlie took Dash found quite a show of Snipe Bob did nicely expected to find a good show of Woodcock but they were scarce. Flora gave me a lively twist through the brush. Parker did some nice work

15 Snipe 11 Ducks 3 Woodcock

Oct. 22

Huffman, Juckett & I started at 5 A.M. Wapsie. Dark & muddy and every indication of rain no birds moving. came home early

12 Snipe 1 Woodcock 4 Ducks



GEORGE E. POYNEER

GAME DIARIST

Oct 29

Jucket I went down on Island no birds moving came home early

Nov. 2

Oscar Morton and I started for Gowrie at 5:30 Raining Geese & Brant flying very thick all night and yesterday Did not see any ducks on the way out. Saw McNeil at Boone he will come on to morrow. Met a blower (?)²⁷ on the train from Evanston found Col Magill & Capt. Bid at Gowrie²⁸

Nov. 3

Col., Capt., Bid, John Evans, Oscar and I started out East of town saw a good many ducks after a little the Geese began coming I did not get in a good place. Morton had the best they were determined to come across him I had two shots and killed my first goose Frank retrieved it. Worked around the rest of the day jumping ducks had some fun the night flight did not amount to anything. Did some quick work on a Mallard Jumped him and killed him with 3rd shot

Nov. 4

Col & Bid went home Dick joined us we went to Coon Slough I never saw so many ducks put the Bond Boat in the Slough if I had stayed there would have had a big time. But drove on out to Swansons John & Oc went on The worst night I ever put in Ducks did not come into the corn

Nov. 5

Up early birds did not come into the corn and not many moving come to the conclusion that Swanson had been kidding us. drove over to Long Slough and there was myriads of Duck Geese & Brant but could not get at them.

²⁷A braggert.

²⁸Webster County. It will be noted that Poyneer and companions frequently used the trains to find the best shooting.

Made an awful shot at a Brant. Went on and stopped to Smiths saw a great variety of Game Ducks Geese Brant Cranes & Chickens in his cornfield all at one time. I made double shot on Sand Hills the ducks came in very plenty in the evening and we had glorious sport Frank improving every day. Stayed at Mr. Smiths and it was a fine place to stay

15 Ducks 2 Sand Hill 1 Brant

Nov. 6

Very cold everything froze up and I got froze out for the first time in my life Ducks moving very plenty and some Geese. Dick and I did some poor managing at the School House on Geese. In the afternoon I got a good place in Smiths cornfield and had some fine shooting.

"Ducks can smell"

14 Ducks

Nov. 7

"Election day" Gave up my vote for Tilden & Hendrick²⁹ for the sake of a hunt very few ducks went in below Smiths killed a large Sand Hill and how he did kick corn stalks. On the way into Gowrie stopped at different sloughs found Ducks & Geese setting on the ice

4 Ducks 1 Sand Hill

Nov. 12

Went down to the Meradosha Water very low found a flock of Geese setting in the Doshia but they saw me first. Water very low. Used Bob went up in the bluffs after partridge

1 Duck 1 Rabbit 1 Partridge
6 Snipe

Nov. 19

Juckett and I went across the river after Quail got up three bebies had hard luck finding them afterwards. went down south after partridge

10 Quail 1 Partridge 3 Rabbits

²⁹Reference is to the presidential election of 1876 when Samuel J. Tilden and Thomas A. Hendricks ran on the Democratic ticket against Rutherford B. Hayes and W. A. Wheeler, Republicans. It was a fiercely fought election which was resolved only by an Electoral Commission, which gave the contest decision to Hayes.

Nov. 26

Juckett and I went across the river It began snowing and drove us in

2 Quail

Dec. 3

Juckett and I went over toward Garden Plain found 5 Bevies I did some very poor shooting Went along CB&Q track

23 Quail 3 Rabbits

Dec. 7

Juckett and I went over the river North of CB&Q track made the longest tramp we ever made from here very cold and disagreeable found where Partridge had been in corn-field considerable snow on the ground. Bob did good work.

17 Quail 1 Partridge 4 Rabbits

Dec. 31

Juckett and I went down toward Albany found a nice lot of birds and some good ground I whittled one bevy Had Jeff out

17 Quail 1 Partridge

1877

Feby

Bob & Bill Huffman and I went to the Wapsie Ducks have been flying very plenty Ice all out did not fly much after we got there

2 Pintail (1 Mallard)

Juckett, Billy H. & I went to the Wapsie all the sloughs frozen up No Ducks. Juckett killed a Hybrid

3 Mallard

April 1

Juckett, W. Huffman & I went down to Lower Goose on Beaver Island wind blew very hard put decoys on East side wind so high had to move over on west side had some nice shooting came up on East side of Island

28 Ducks

April 8

Juckett, Huffman and I down to Folletts very few ducks has been some fine shooting there within the last week Col

Magill and Tom got a fine bag it began raining soon after we got there. Juckett flushed some snipe they had just come in and were very wild. shot No. 4s at them I killed the first of the season

3 Snipe 4 Ducks

11

Up on the bottom with Jeff would not work but little

2 Snipe

13

Up on bottom

1 Snipe

15

W Huffman Frank Eggleston & I drove up to Hansons. birds very scarce I worked pretty well down

44 Snipe 6 Ducks

April 22

Juckett and I up to Hansons birds scarce

24 Snipe

July 1

Took Crippen boat went down to the mouth of the Wapsie hunted all the Islands for Woodcock found some nice ground water was too high used Fan and Jeff

10 Woodcock

8

Went in by Thomas well with Puss [?] hunted over a great deal ground did not find anything

15

Went on the Islands below Camache killed one Woodcock no birds

1 Woodcock 3 Ducks

Aug. 15

Lafe took Juckett and I went up to Dick Lyons got up two or three packs of birds when we came back at night got a pack near the house but was so dark could not do anything with them

9 Chickens

22

Went up to Hansons with Purdy & Son used Jeff & Fan

very warm. Jeff made his first point a chick Fan did nicely.

6 Chickens

Aug. 29

Started for Gowrie with Tom Magill

Aug. 30

Grand Junction we hired a team and went out North found a very few birds Jeff improving Got up to Gowrie at 3½ P. M. John Evans was ready for us out we went and had a splendid shoot

18 Chick

31

Out early went South West had a splendid time did some nice [?] Jeff improving warm in the middle of day Had old Dash and Fan. They did not do much Fan being lame Lost my Rail Road tickets

34 Chickens

Sept 1

Took things easy went out a little while in the morning did not do anything to the house at dinner out in the evening

8 Chickens

Sept. 2

Out very early drove NW got on the ground before daylight very cold. Struck birds as soon as we started in. John & Tom followed a pack into the prairie. Jeff did some elegant work showing fine nose and staunch I found two packs and marked one down in the prairie. found them and killed them all jumped into the wagon and drove to new ground had splendid luck in finding I killed 5 out of one pack on first rise we all shot nicely and worked hard Old Jack did nice work. Got in quite late made the extraordinary bag of

87 Chickens 1 Mallard

Sept. 3

Started for the Hampton trials³⁰ Tom took the dogs home

³⁰Probably Hampton, Iowa. Poyneer was a well known judge of field trials in dog shows. The reader will note the different dogs mentioned in Poyneer's account, and his frequent comments on their performance. Since he was one of the judges, Poyneer naturally sent his own dogs home.

and the birds they all kept nicely

Sept. 4 5 6 Hampton Trials

Sept. 9

Went down to the Wapsie with Purdy & Sm. Used
Shot, Jeff & Fan. They worked nicely. Saw first Snipe
1 Chick 3 Ducks

Sept. 16

Went to Camache and crossed on the Ferry and drove
up to Shlingers I was using a new Parker and did some
poor shooting there was one of the finest flights of Blue
wing Teal I ever saw near the point The rice was very
high and the water was higher than last season
35 Ducks

Sept 22

Sent my boat down went to Shlingers and stayed all
night very warm next day had some nice shooting about
all at Teal

35 Ducks

29

Lot Smith and I stayed all night at Shlingers got some
fair shooting at evening on the Point in the morning we
worked down below rained most all day and all the way
home

65 Ducks

WAGON ROADS WEST

*The Sawyers Expeditions of 1865, 1866*¹

BY ALICE V. MYERS

The story here told of two expeditions led by James A. Sawyers from Sioux City, Iowa, to the Montana gold fields in the years 1865-1866 is but a part of that larger story of the frenzied search for gold throughout the western part of the United States. It is illustrative of the spirit of adventure which led countless pioneers through Indian dangers across the plains and into the privations of mining camps.

The gold miners' saying "gold is where you find it," is not only true of individual prospector's experiences, but of the whole search man has made for this metal. Man crossed oceans, deserts, and mountains; has suffered the pangs of hunger for long periods of time; and has been willing to change his habitation whenever he heard of new discoveries.

THE OPENING OF THE MONTANA GOLD FIELDS

Cortes and Pizzaro found for Spain large quantities of this metal already mined by the Indians of Mexico and Peru. And Coronado with his men trudged many weary miles through southwestern United States in a fruitless search for a similar El Dorado.

Centuries later Johann August Sutter, a German who had acquired Swiss citizenship and gave it up for Mexican naturalization, had an institution in California on the American River which consisted of a fort, farms, herds, and henchmen. Closely following on the heels of Mexico's cession of California to the United States, came the discovery of gold on Sutter's ranch in 1848. The lure for possession of some of this precious metal now brought people by thousands to California. It was not long, however, until it became evident that the number who were to be fortunate in

acquiring wealth would be comparatively small. Some of the unsuccessful adventurers took up their previously learned trades in California; others drifted back to former homes; while some who had become seasoned prospectors, sought new gold fields.

Numerous fields farther north shortly attracted the veteran prospectors who were willing to suffer on and take a chance with what they might find. In what is now the state of Washington, along the Fraser and Quesnelle rivers, British Columbia, the precious metal was discovered in 1855-60. Even later more goldbearing regions in the Cariboo, Kootenai and Upper Columbia regions were located in 1862-1863.

Contemporary with this prospecting were discoveries in Idaho, Oregon, and Montana in 1860-1861.

James and Granville Stuart found gold in Deer Lodge Valley [Montana] in 1861-1862. During August, 1862, John White discovered a rich bar on Grasshopper Creek in the heart of the Rockies and near the headwaters of the Missouri River. In the spring of 1863 Henry Edgar and a party of prospectors left Bannock City to join the Stuarts at the juncture of the Yellowstone and the Big Horn rivers. In halting for camp on their retreat when forced back by a party of Indians they discovered the strike in what was later called Alder Gulch, where Virginia City became the center of a number of mining communities stretching along the creek.

The next big movement of prospectors and emigrants proved to be into the Montana region, which not only attracted these seasoned prospectors, but emigrants from points to the East.

In 1864 territorial government was established in Montana. The succession of discoveries culminating in the mild boom in 1864-65 at Last Chance Gulch (Helena) had brought many people to this region who wished to stay and form a settled government.

With new discoveries in unfamiliar regions and emigrants eager to embark, came the cry for facilities by which eager prospectors and pioneers could reach these destina-

tions. The problems of building roads, forts and bridges; of getting necessary money; of having adequate protection from Indians, both en route and in the settlements; of justly parceling out homesteads and mining rights soon presented themselves. In these tasks the government played a large part.

The Oregon Trail, which was already established, was logically the first one to be considered. This trail was not too far to the south, but mountains presented difficult barriers for north and south travel into the Montana gold fields. Railroads, yet to be extended into the Far West, could have transported large numbers of people and quantities of supplies into the gold regions. But the Civil War abruptly stopped the development of all transcontinental railroad routes. In the meantime eager emigrants had to rely on oxen to pull their wagons the many weary miles across plains and deserts. This delay in construction only emphasized the need for development of the routes.

Routes to the Montana gold fields from points in the Middle West, not only involved the difficulties of geography, but also carried with them the Indian menace. The Indian did not seem to mind the white man's acquisition of gold, but he did feel encroached upon when his hunting grounds were jeopardized. The United States government attempted numerous treaties with the Indians in which their territory was designated. With the ever increasing migration of white people into the region of the roving Indians, sometimes in violation of existing agreements between the Indians and the federal government, this policy of treaty making was ineffective in resolving the clash between the two divergent cultures.

Due to increasing hostility on the part of the Indians toward the western emigrant the government sought means of protection for its pioneering people. Forts and garrisons were stationed at various strategic points. Increasing massacres forced the government to provide military escorts to

¹Based upon a masters thesis, "The Sioux City, Iowa, Expeditions to the Montana Gold Fields, 1865 and 1866 in Relationship to the Minnesota Expeditions," prepared by Miss Myers under the direction of Prof. Charles J. Ritchey, of Drake University, 1940.

trains of emigrants who were moving westward. The necessary money to provide for these was appropriated by Congress from time to time.

EARLY WAGON ROAD EXPEDITIONS

As early as 1861, Congress was induced to spend public money to assist emigrants in overland expeditions. Congressmen from states that would benefit were especially active in this matter of securing government funds. On March 2, 1861, the first of such bills appropriated a sum of fifty thousand dollars to protect emigrants going between the Atlantic slope and California, and Oregon and Washington frontier.²

An expedition under Capt. Medorem Crawford left Omaha over the central route and was disbanded at Fort Walla Walla.

Congressmen from Oregon with the cooperation of a delegation from Minnesota, succeeded in getting Congress to authorize a second appropriation for armed escorts of these mining-emigrant trains the following year. Such protection would encourage people to start out who otherwise would feel that the Indian danger was unsurmountable. The money set aside for this purpose was to take care of escorts to expeditions between the Atlantic States and California, Oregon, and Washington Territory. The statement in the act for distributing the money was very general³

People interested in going to the northern gold fields started congregating in St. Paul early in the spring of 1862.⁴ Those desiring to go to the Idaho-Montana regions came

²12 U. S. Stats. at L. 204. ". . . And be it further enacted, that for the protection of emigrants on the overland routes between the Atlantic slope and the California and Oregon and Washington frontier, the sum of fifty thousand dollars is hereby appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, to be expended under the direction of the Secretary of War, if, in his judgment, the same may be necessary."

³*Ibid.*, 333. "January 27, 1862. An act to provide for the protection of Overland Emigrants to California, Oregon and Washington Territory.

"Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, that, for the protection of emigrants on the overland routes between the Atlantic States and California, Oregon, and Washington Territory, the sum of twenty-five thousand dollars be, and the same is hereby appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, to be expended under the direction of the Secretary of War, if, in his judgment, the same may be necessary."

⁴The discussion of the Minnesota expeditions is largely dependent upon an unpublished study "The Northern Overland Expeditions to Montana, 1862-1867," by Professor Charles J. Ritchey of Drake University.

not only from Minnesota towns but from localities at greater distances. Fort Abercromie on the Red River in Dakota Territory proved to be the "jumping off" place for these groups. Thomas Holmes of Shakopee, Minnesota, became the leader of this expedition, which struck westward from a point about thirty miles west of Pembina, Dakota Territory.

The leader of the government, or authorized, expedition was James Liberty Fisk, who arrived in St. Paul to assume charge of the escort train June 4, 1862. The complete party assembled at Fort Abercromie by July 4, and started west three days later. Past the present site of Minot, Dakota, the party moved northwestward from Mouse River onto the Coteau du Missouri, thence down to Fort Benton and Bannock City.

The success of the first Fisk expedition added much encouragement for an appropriation of another government financed military escort, which was secured without much difficulty the following year. Leaving St. Paul for St. Cloud, Minnesota, June 3, 1863, the second Fisk expedition could see evidences of the Sioux Massacre of 1862 as they moved westward. Cautiously following a route close to the Canadian border, the party finally reached Fort Benton and eventually Bannock City without molestation.⁵

With the success of Fisk's two expeditions of 1862 and 1863, there was considerable popular favor in the west to continue such enterprises. While Minnesota had succeeded in being the starting point for the expeditions to Montana in 1862 and 1863, this state now had some competition from Sioux City, Iowa. That city was advocating a road to be built along the Niobrara, diagonally across to the Powder River, over to the Yellowstone, then west and south into the gold mines located around Virginia City and Bannock. Thus, when the third bill to appropriate money for western wagon roads was passed in 1864, Congress again delegated

⁵12 U. S. Stats. at L. 642, Feb. 7, 1863 ". . . for the protection of emigrants by the overland routes to the states and Territories of the Pacific the sum of thirty thousand dollars be, and the same is hereby appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, to be expended under the direction of the Secretary of War; provided that ten thousand dollars shall be applied to the protection of emigrants on the route from Fort Abercrombie by Fort Benton."

the money to be spent in such a general way that the door was left open for other roads than the one from Minnesota.*

Major H. E. Maynadier, Twelfth U. S. Infantry, was assigned to open the route "from Niobrara on the Missouri river, to the valley of the Niobrara and Gallatin, in Idaho."[†] He received his instructions May 16 in Dubuque, Iowa, and arrived in Sioux City July 4 after traveling from Dubuque since June 16. He was not able to raise a party as large as twenty-five. Since the purpose of Major Maynadier's westward trip was to protect emigrants, there seemed to be no reason for him to start out when the number of emigrants who wanted to go was so small. As a consequence the government property was sold and the party disbanded.

While Maynadier's expedition in 1864 was being disbanded, and a whole year was to elapse before the first Sawyers expedition, two groups in Minnesota were in the process of materializing. These are known as the Holmes and Fisk Expeditions of 1864.

Holmes again led an unheralded and almost entirely unreported expedition. He told all those who wished to go with him that he would accept the protection of General Sully of the U. S. Army. By so doing, he went through to the gold fields of Montana safely.

Fisk, as before, was delayed in his start, and unsuccessful in trying to get his own escort. He finally accepted protection of a military detachment on its way to join General Sully on the Missouri. But when attacked by Sioux Indians near the Montana boundary line, and forced to send back to General Sully for assistance, Fisk's expedition was ordered back to Fort Rice. From this point the expedition broke up, and its failure definitely injured Fisk's prestige.

*13 U. S. Stats. at L. 863-65, March 3, 1864 " . . . for the protection of emigrants by the overland route, to the States and Territories of the Pacific, the sum of forty thousand dollars be, and the same is hereby appropriated out of any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated, to be expended under the direction of the Secretary of War: Provided that ten thousand dollars of said appropriation shall be applied to the protection of emigrants on the route from Fort Abercrombie by Fort Benton, and the further sum of ten thousand dollars of said appropriation shall be applied to the protection of emigrants on the route from Niobrara, on the Missouri river, by the valley of the Niobrara and Gallatin, in Idaho."

It will be noted that this appropriation was for the protection of emigrants rather than for the building of a wagon road as was the case of the appropriations of 1865-66.

[†]War of the Rebellion, Official Records, Series I, Vol. 41, Pt. 4, pp. 882-883.

SAWYER'S SIOUX CITY EXPEDITION, 1865

While Minnesota had obtained numerous appropriations for wagon road expeditions, a number of which had gone through, Sioux City, Iowa, continued dreaming dreams of becoming a starting point for some such road to follow along the Niobrara River and northwestward to the Yellowstone River, and thence westward to Virginia City. A. W. Hubbard, the Iowa Congressional representative from the Sioux City district, was pushing one of the first necessary steps, that of getting government money appropriated. On January 5, 1865, Hubbard introduced in the House of Representatives a bill to provide for the construction of a wagon road from the Missouri river to Virginia City, in Montana. The same bill was introduced in the Senate February 23, 1865, and on March 3, 1865, it became a law.^{*} It read as follows:

An act to provide for the construction of certain Wagon-Roads in the Territories of Idaho, Montana, Dakota, and Nebraska:

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, that the Secretary of the Interior be, and he is hereby, authorized and empowered to survey, locate, and construct the following wagon-roads.

First: A road from Niobrara to the mouth of the Turtle Hill River and thence, upon the most direct practicable route, to Virginia City, in Montana Territory, with a branch from the mouth of Turtle Hill River or such other point as may be selected, to Omaha.

Second: A road from a point at or near the mouth of the Big Sioux River via Yancton, Dakota Territory, to a point at or near the mouth of the Big Sheyenne River, thence up said river to its main forks, thence up the north fork to a point of intersection with the road from Niobrara.

Third: For a road from a point on the western boundary of Minnesota, to be determined by the Secretary of Interior, to a point at or near the mouth of the big Sheyenne River.

Fourth: A road from Virginia City, in Montana upon the most practicable route, to Lewiston, in Idaho.

Section 2: And be it further enacted, that to enable the Secretary of the Interior to carry out the provisions of the foregoing section, the sum of one hundred and forty thousand dollars

^{*}*Congressional Globe*, 2nd Session, 39th Congress, Pt. I, 116; *ibid.*, Pt. II, 1006, 1383.

be, and the same is hereby appropriated out of any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated, fifty thousand dollars of which shall be applied to the construction of the road from Virginia City to Lewiston fifty thousand dollars shall be applied to the construction of the road from Niobrara and branch to Omaha; twenty thousand dollars shall be applied to the construction of the road from the mouth of the Big Sheyenne to its intersection with the Niobrara road ten thousand dollars shall be applied to the construction of a bridge over the Big Sioux River, or so much of this sum as may be necessary, and any balance remaining to be applied to continuing and improving the road from Sioux City, Iowa, to the Big Sheyenne River;

Provided, that any unexpended money now in the treasury, appropriated for the construction of a road from Sioux City to Fort Randall, Dakota Territory, shall be, and is hereby, transferred from the War Department to the Department of the Interior⁹

The Secretary of the Department of Interior, John Usher, appointed James A. Sawyers of Sioux City, Iowa, to lead the Niobrara expedition. Sawyers received notice of this appointment the last of March and started immediately to organize and to equip the outfit necessary to carry out his assignment.

Since much of the region was unexplored, Sawyers "deemed it proper to make ample preparations for going and returning, and decided to purchase supplies for six months with teams and transportation for the same, and all tools necessary for the construction of the road and the making of all bridges and fords over the streams that might have to be crossed on our route." N. C. Hudson, an advocate of the expedition, was sent to Washington to arrange for remittance of funds to be sent to Chicago. But when Sawyers arrived in Chicago to make his purchases, he found no money to his credit and he was delayed until April before he could secure his supplies.¹⁰

A. W. Hubbard procured through Major General Pope, commanding the department of the Northwest, a suitable escort for the expedition. This was to consist of at least 200 cavalry and two howitzers. When Sawyers returned

⁹13 U. S. Stats. at L. 516-517.

¹⁰*Executive Documents*, Serial No. 1256, Doc. No. 58. See also *Sioux City Journal*, Dec. 23, 1865 - March 3, 1866.

from Chicago to Sioux City he found to his surprise, instead of any cavalry escort, that two companies of the 5th United States Volunteer Infantry, consisting of only about 118 men in all, had been sent to the mouth of the Niobrara, with rations for only three months (including May), and with scanty transportation facilities.

Sawyers immediately sought to better the situation of his escort. As a result of a telegram to General Pope, General Sully detailed an additional escort of twenty-five men from Company B, 1st Battalion Dakota Cavalry, and ordered his commissary to furnish rations to last the whole escort for six months, but he furnished no transportation. A contract was made with C. E. Hedges and Company, private freighters to provide the necessary means of transportation. Sawyers also asked General Sully for forty Springfield rifles, with essential equipment and ammunition. These Sully supplied.

The people of Sioux City were keenly interested in the building of this wagon road along the Niobrara to the gold fields of Montana from the very beginning. While for political reasons the *Sioux City Register* was skeptical for some time concerning the merits and the progress of the building of the road, the *Sioux City Journal* fought many a battle to make the dream of a Niobrara Wagon Road come true. On December 24, 1864, the *Sioux City Journal* published a complete itinerary of the route such a wagon road would take. The people of Sioux City followed closely Hubbard's progress in securing the necessary appropriation and escort. In local newspapers appeared articles, which painted bright and encouraging pictures as an inducement for support and recruits to the expedition. In the *Sioux City Journal* May 20, 1865, appeared an example of the salesmanship used in behalf of the expedition.

All Aboard:

Col. Sawyers returned to town on Tuesday last, from Chicago and the East, where he has been to obtain the necessary supplies for the Wagon Road Expeditions. Mr. Sawyers reports everything in good working order, and nearly in readiness to start. All that now remains to be done, is to concentrate and the expedition is ready. The greater portion of his supplies are shipped to Niobrara

by boat, which will allow teams to start out light and get somewhat accustomed to traveling before taking full loads.

It is expected that the train will leave this place about the twenty-fifth instant, and passing up the Missouri River bottom, via Vermillion and Yankton, in Dakota, to the mouth of the Niobrara, where the town of Niobrara is situated, will there cross the Missouri by ferry, and load the train with supplies for the trip. At this place an escort, consisting of two companies of infantry, together with about thirty government teamsters, is now awaiting the arrival of the train. This force, with the men who go out with the construction train, will be amply sufficient to afford security against the Indians who inhabit the country through which the route passes, so that even the most timid may have nothing to fear from that source. The grass is reported much more advanced up the country than it is here and below us, and already furnishes ample for teams.

In the March 15, 1865, issue of the *Sioux City Journal* appeared a letter from a prospector already in Montana. He urged people to bring along at least six months supplies, as he noted:

It would take a large pile of "greenbacks" to sustain one here with flour at \$60 per hundred, sugar and coffee two dollars per pound, syrup twenty dollars per gallon, and everything in proportion. For the benefit of those interested I will give the current wholesale prices of a few leading articles as they are quoted in *Virginia Post*, in gold; Flour, \$28; vegetables, from 5 to 20 cents per pound; lard, 65 cents per pound; candles, 80 cents per pound; sugar 80 to 90 cents; coffee, 80 to 90 cents; canned fruits, \$25 to \$30 per case; coal oil, \$10; teas, \$2.30 to \$3.00; golden syrup, \$65 per ten gallon kegs; butter, \$1.00 to \$1.50; dried fruits, 37 cents to 90 cents; linseed oil, \$10; The above are gold dust prices and are just twice as much as [sic] in "greenbacks." The emigrant will, therefore, at once see the advantage gained by bringing with him a good supply of the necessities of life.

To offset the discouragement of high prices the writer described several diggings which were producing large quantities of gold. There is no doubt that Sawyers' expedition left Sioux City in high anticipation of gold returns.

It was not until June 13 that Sawyers and his expedition were ready to leave Niobrara City. In spite of his great exertions unavoidable delays had prolonged the start for about two weeks beyond the date earlier set for the departure.





In Sawyers' report to the Secretary of Interior, James Harlan¹¹ appears the following description of this train:

The expedition proper consisted of 53 men including my engineer and clerk, physician, guides, scouts, pioneers, herders, and drivers, 45 yokes of oxen, 5 saddle-horses, 5 mules, 15 wagons, with chains, tools, tents, camp equipage, and subsistence for six months. Our escort train numbered 25 wagons, drawn by six mules each. These teams were small and thin at starting, and very young, but few of them being over three years old, and, as a whole, a very inferior lot of animals wholly inadequate for the expedition, and should never have been sent upon it.

Accompanying the expedition were five emigrant teams and a private freight train of thirty-six wagons, coupled together so to be drawn by eighteen teams of six yoke oxen each, and heavily loaded, some teams being loaded with 6,400 lbs.; and here permit me to say that the entire practicability of the route traveled over may be seen when I state that not one of these wagons were uncoupled during the journey for the passage of any obstacle in the road.

Sawyers' himself was very much disappointed with the escort which was provided for him. He comments that some emigrants and some men, whom he had hired, turned back and would not make the trip because of the insufficiency of the escort.

Several letters were written to and published by the *Sioux City Journal* from the Camp on the Big Coulter Creek, June 18, 1865. In each case fine traveling was reported, and that "everyone seems to be in excellent spirits." One letter gave the following description of their line of march:

We march as follows: A scouting party with the guides go in advance; then comes a section of Artillery with a division of Infantry; the train follows, divided into three sections, with a division of Infantry between each section, while a division of Infantry and a section of Artillery close up the road. In country that is considered at all dangerous, the train will move in double columns; so that it may be more easily protected in case of a dash by Indians. A few more Cavalry would have been desirable for scouts; but with this exception, our escort is all we could expect or ask for. The officers are veterans, first rate men, and perfect gentlemen. The troops are a fine body of men, who have proved their bravery on many battlefields, are perfectly disciplined, and well supplied with ammunition.¹²

¹¹*Executive Documents*, Serial 1256, op. cit.

¹²*Sioux City Journal*, July 1, 1865.

Other letters were sent to the Journal and this would indicate that there was some connection with the mail all along the route. One letter was written from a camp on the South Fork of the Cheyenne river in Dakota Territory, July 21, 1865. Another was sent from the camp on the Big Horn river, September 16, 1865. Apparently the mail was returned to Iowa through the assistance of military detachments that were met by the expedition in the West.

Sawyers made ample provision for camp equipment, and organized the personnel with an eye to efficiency. The unofficial "Journal of the Wagon Road" for 1865 states that Colonel Sawyers had each mess provided with a good tent, heavy sheet-iron cook stove, mess chest, and furniture complete. He added that these were under charge of men who were hired exclusively for cooking so that the pioneers and teamsters had nothing to do after arriving at camp except to eat and occasionally stand a guard turn over the cattle.¹³

The writer of the same journal writes that all provision was made for the necessary comfort and convenience of the men, including a full supply of medicine and a careful physician. Dr. Tingley was the physician in charge. Both this journal and Sawyers' official report for the expedition of 1865 frequently comment on Dr. Tingley's interest in archaeology and his search for fossils in which he was quite successful. Accompanying Sawyers' report to the Secretary of Interior is the doctor's own report of the various cases he handled en route. No serious epidemics broke out, and the several instances of death came as a result of Indian fights rather than from sickness. No doubt the aid of a physician kept occasional illness from proving serious.

The camp sites, with very few exceptions, were good all of the way from Niobrara to Virginia City. When Sawyers anticipated a shortage of water at the next camp, he ordered water to be carried along in available containers from the camp site which they were just leaving. On a few occasions in the Niobrara region "buffalo chips" were used

¹³*Ibid.*, Dec. 23, 1865.

for the fires when food could not be found. With the abundant sources of water along the route, there was practically always sufficient grass for the grazing of the stock. It was a common happening for some of the expedition to come in from a hunting trip with a goodly supply of fresh meat such as buffalo or elk. All of these factors contributed greatly to the success and comfort of the trip.

Sawyers, as other leaders of like expeditions, hired a guide who was familiar with the country to assist the Niobrara expedition along its approximately one thousand miles of travel. In his report to the Secretary of Interior, he described his experience of losing his first guide by desertion and having to hire another.

Paul Dorien, our Indian guide, who had left camp at Niobrara on the 11th instant, not making his appearance, I went to the Yankton agency in search of him, and found that he had deserted us and gone upon a hunt, notwithstanding his agreement to go with me, at a compensation of \$150. per month. I was sorry to lose his services as he was called the best Indian guide in the country, though subject to sulky fits at times. I engaged in his place Baptiste Defond, a Yankton half-breed, who was recommended to me as a very good guide, and who served very faithfully as such till his discharge on the Big Horn river. My chief guide, Ben. F. Estes, went through with me to Virginia City and back, as I had agreed with him. He was in Lieutenant (now General) Warren's party in 1856, and with us proved himself to combine all the qualities that go to make up a first-rate guide, combining great personal bravery with the most untiring energy, and withal very quite and unassuming in his manner, speaking the Sioux language fluently, and having intimate knowledge of their manners and customs. He was of great assistance in making treaties whereby we were fully enabled to pass through the hostile Indians' country.¹⁴

Seldom did these overland expeditions to Montana travel on Sunday and the Sawyers expedition was no exception to the rule. Wagons were on the trail as early in the morning as four o'clock, and never later than seven in the evening. Between providing for the evening meal, and caring for the stock, the time between halting the march and retiring soon passed. Therefore Sunday was used to rest the

¹⁴*Executive Documents, op. cit.*, entry of June 14.

stock, to repair wagons and harness, to wash and mend clothes, to write letters home, and to break the grind of physical wear. The Fisk expeditions frequently had a church service on Sunday, but there were none on the Sawyers expeditions.

The Sawyers expedition left the town of Niobrara, which is at the juncture of the Niobrara and the Missouri rivers, at one o'clock in the afternoon of June 13, about two weeks later than had been planned for the day of departure. The train traveled south of the Niobrara for about two-thirds the way across northern Nebraska. Sand hills to the south of the trail were noted along most of this portion of travel. During the first few days of July the mercury registered above one hundred degrees, and this was the expedition's only experience with such unbearable weather. On July 10, the Niobrara was crossed just above the mouth of Antelope Creek.

The road being made left Nebraska a few days after crossing the river for which the wagon road was named and out across the extreme southwestern corner of South Dakota. The White River was forded at a point near the present boundary between Nebraska and South Dakota. As the expedition was crossing from Dakota Territory into Wyoming, much interest was shown in the Black Hills, and deposits of coal were noted. Not far from the crossing of the White River, General Harney's trail leading from Fort Laramie to Fort Pierre, was recognized.

The inadequate supplies of the escort were beginning to run short at this point in the journey. On the 21st of July, Lieutenant Dana with an escort of fifteen cavalymen was directed to go to Fort Laramie about seventy-five miles distant to secure the needed supplies. He returned to the train on the Dry Fork of the Cheyenne, August 1, but with no supplies. Since he was afraid the Indians would capture these supplies, he ordered them sent to Old Woman's Fork which he considered a safer vicinity. The searching party that was later detailed to Old Woman's Fork where Lieutenant Dana had ordered the supplies to be sent came back empty-handed. The train moved on across the North

Fork of the Cheyenne within view of Pumpkin Buttes, and headed north slightly east of the Powder River for two or three days. Upon finding that a good road could not be made to the Powder River from this point without great expense, the decision was made to retrace their steps back to Pumpkin Buttes. This experience represents a loss of six days, the greatest loss of time during the journey to Virginia City.

The expedition met with difficulties while going through the Indian Country. Between August 13 and 16 three men, Nat. D. Hedges, Anthony Nelson and John Rouse, while attempting to find the best place to build a road in the Powder River vicinity, were killed in Indian skirmishes. As a result of another Indian attack near Fort Connor on the Powder River, Captain Cole was killed on August 31 and Captain Lovell escaped only because he had a fleet horse. On this day the expedition went only two and one-half miles beyond the skirmish ground, since the hills were alive with Indians. Two men, Dilleland from Sioux City and Merrill of Cedar Rapids, were killed as the group was in the process of corralling the train. The Indians soon showed signs of making peace; consequently under a truce arrangement several Indian and expedition representatives were sent to General Connor as he had had a battle with the Indians a short time previously and had captured ponies and mules from them.¹⁸

While waiting for supplies that did not come, and searching in vain for General Connor who was in that vicinity, presumably in possession of the supplies, members of the escort were becoming faint-hearted. They were finally successful in forcing Sawyers to order the train to a camp near Fort Connor. Contact, was soon made with General Connor who was some distance from the fort. The General ordered Colonel Kidd to furnish an escort of cavalry to the Big Horn river. This escort was to replace the one which

¹⁸*Dictionary of American Biography* IV, 352-353. Gen. Connor, veteran of the Mexican War, was assigned to the District of the Plains with instructions to cooperate in a movement to be known as the Powder River Indian Expedition in 1865. He was on this mission against the hostile Arrapahoes and Sioux and Cheyenne when Col. Sawyers was so desperately trying to get help from him.

was composed of infantry and had begrudgingly accompanied the train thus far. No more Indian dangers of any seriousness were encountered, and the new escort seems to have been quite satisfactory.

The expedition now crossed the Powder river and struck off in a northwestern direction to complete their diagonal line across northeastern Wyoming. Near the Wyoming-Montana boundary both wagon road journals note the expedition passing Father De Smet's Lake.¹⁶

It was September 18 when the train came into the valley of the Big Horn River in Montana, and the 19th when this river was crossed. Captain Kidd left them here as he had been ordered to do by General Connor, but he detailed Sergeant Yoakum with seven men to go on to Virginia City, and thence to proceed to Salt Lake City. Due to the fact that from the Big Horn river to Virginia City the Indian danger was considered practically eliminated, this escort was thought sufficient, and proved to be so.

The northwest direction was continued from the Big Horn to within a short distance of the Yellowstone River. The wagon train followed a little south of the Yellowstone until it was possible to cross and go almost directly to Boseman. While following the Yellowstone, Sawyers was apparently confused as to the streams and forks which the expedition was crossing. While neither journal speaks of the train being lost, in Sawyers' report to the Secretary of Interior he speaks of his guide's unfamiliarity with that part of the country.¹⁷

Boseman City was reached on October 5. While camped here, some of the drivers decided to celebrate on some "awful mean whiskey" which was purchased at the price of ten dollars per gallon.

From Boseman the party traveled in a southwest direction, crossing the Gallatin, Madison, and Jefferson rivers, and arrived in Virginia City on October 12. The expedition had been en route exactly four months. There was no

¹⁶Father de Smet was one of the pioneer Catholic missionaries in the mid-nineteenth century.

¹⁷*Executive Documents*, *op cit.*, entry of Sept. 25.

doubt that Indian troubles along the way took up some four or five weeks in the one thousand thirty-nine miles of travel between Niobrara City and Virginia City.

Sawyers had intended to go back over the road and complete the cutoff from Omaha to the Niobrara route. But due to the lateness of the season, he immediately set about paying off the men and selling the equipment. The disposition of camp equipment proved to be rather difficult as the market was flooded by like disposals of other travelers to Montana. He finally had to place most of the outfits in the hands of a commission merchant. The wagon-master was left to assist in the sale and to collect the funds for the government while Sawyers left for Salt Lake City, en-route to Sioux City.

Although Sawyers started his return trip realizing that his expedition had taken at least a month longer than he had anticipated, he was well pleased with many aspects of the Niobrara Wagon Road. In his report to the Secretary of Interior he analyzed the practicability and future of this road.¹⁸ He pointed out that this route was six hundred miles shorter than the one hitherto traveled via Salt Lake City. With good traveling by oxen covering fifteen to eighteen miles per day, six hundred miles less would decidedly be an encouraging factor. This route included no mountain ranges to be crossed. With plenty of food, grass, water, and game present most of the way, much suffering was eliminated.

Throughout the trip Sawyers seems to have maintained harmony among the numbers of his train. No note is ever made of anyone questioning Sawyers' authority. Whenever he was spoken of personally in letters to the *Journal* (which were signed "Montana") it was with very high regard. Sawyers closed his journal for 1865 with expressions of appreciation to various members of his party who had, in his estimation, contributed to the success of the expedition. Perhaps such evidence of humbleness instead of ego-

¹⁸*Ibid.*, following entry of October 12.

tism explains at least part of the background of Sawyers success as a leader.

Sawyers and party arrived in Sioux City the first part of December. The *Sioux City Journal* in its issue of December 9, 1865, paid Sawyers quite a tribute for his accomplishment. The article decidedly gave impetus to starting plans for another such expedition the following year.

EXPEDITIONS FROM ST. PAUL AND SIOUX CITY, 1866.

While the authorization law of 1865 designated no armed escort for the northern route from Minnesota, Fisk was again determined to find means by which he could make another trip to the gold fields of Montana.

It was necessary for Fisk first to finance his expedition, and secondly, to secure emigrants. As one means of raising money he chartered the Yellowstone Emigration and Colonization Company. He also filed a claim against the government for \$8000, for losses to him from previous expeditions. While this money was eventually paid to him, it was not in time to assist financially in the 1865 expedition. To enlist emigrants, he not only spoke to groups in St. Paul and vicinity, but went on a speaking tour through the East.

Repeated delays in obtaining his equipment which he was securing via river transportation postponed the possible start until far into the summer. It finally became necessary, with attachments levied on his property, for Fisk to put off his expedition until 1866. Added to that defeat was the fact that General Meagher, recently appointed territorial governor of Montana, became restless waiting to accompany Fisk to Montana, and left St. Paul to go by way of the Central Route while Fisk was still struggling to "whip" his expedition into shape. This veteran of the plains, however, turned his face forward to the next year when he might redeem himself with another expedition that would be successful.

Plans for an expedition in the year 1866 started almost with the return of Sawyers to Sioux City. One of the first matters to be taken care of was a congressional appropri-

tion. On January 8, 1866 such a bill was introduced in the House by Hubbard of Iowa. Later the bill was reported adversely from the Committee on Roads and Canals.¹⁹

Thus there is no new record of new money appropriated by Congress to finance the expedition of 1866 and yet, there is the report which Sawyers made to the Secretary of the Interior. The funds appear to have come from the previous appropriation.²⁰

Fifty thousand dollars were appropriated for the building of a wagon road from Niobrara to Montana and Idaho in 1865. In the Secretary of the Treasury's report for 1866-67 there is a record of Sawyers being paid twenty thousand dollars for his 1865 expedition which would leave unused thirty thousand dollars of the appropriated funds. Sawyers not only made the report to the Secretary of the Interior but received his instructions to make the overland trip from Niobrara to the gold fields of Montana as his reports gives the date when the Secretary of Interior wrote his instructions to Sawyers. Sawyers explained in his report to the Secretary of Interior that he carried out those instructions. Since to date no available sources have been located of newly authorized funds for the expedition of 1866, the assumption is made that the unused funds from the appropriation of 1865 were made available to Sawyers.²¹

Preparations for a second trip with Sawyers as the leader went on during the winter of 1865 and 1866. In the light of the Indian difficulties experienced on the expedition of 1865, an escort for the forthcoming expedition of 1866 seemed imperative. The Sioux City Journal for March 24, 1866, contains an article which describes an escort meeting held a few days earlier. As a result a petition from the citizens of Sioux City was written by a committee and sent to General Pope to express insistent demands for a suitable escort.

¹⁹*Congressional Globe*, Pt. 1, 39th Congress, 1st session, p. 135. A. W. Hubbard introduced a bill to provide for the improvement of the wagon road from Niobrara to Virginia City which was referred to the committee on Roads and Canals. *Congressional Globe*, Pt. IV, op. cit., 3352. Committee on Roads and Canals reported adversely on the Hubbard bill.

²⁰*Sioux City Journal*, Jan. 19, 1867.

²¹13 U. S. Stats. at L. 516-517; *House Documents*, 39th Congress, 2nd Session. Doc. No. 12, 1. 135; *Sioux City Journal* Jan. 12, 1867.

We, the citizens of Sioux City, assembled in public meeting for the purpose of giving expression to our views and wishes, would most respectfully and earnestly request you to furnish a sufficient escort to Col. Sawyers, for the protection of the Train he proposes to take to Montana Territory, over the route from this place, already partially established under the auspices of the Department of the Interior, and for the opening of which, an appropriation has been allowed by Congress, Believing as we do, and as unquestionable facts warrant us in believing, that a shorter and better route to the Gold mines of Montana and Idaho will thereby be fully opened and permanently established; and also for the further reasons, that the interests of a very large section of the country, and more especially of that comprising northern Iowa and Illinois, Southern Minnesota, Wisconsin and Dakota, and all portions of the country east of the same, demand the opening of this road. That Montana, through her representatives asked for it, as being in the highest degree desirable for their interests and the accommodation of her people. That similar aid has been extended to the opening of routes, for the protection of emigrants on the roads now leading to Colorado, Oregon and other sections of the West. That it is but simple and impartial justice to our people and the sections of the country mentioned, that the Government should extend the same aid to the opening of this route that has been extended to others; and further, that no equal number of troops can, in the opinion of this meeting, be employed in the northwest this coming summer, with so much benefit to that section, both for the present and the future, as in the service asked for. Therefore, as an expression of this meeting, it is

RESOLVED, That Major General Pope, in whose discretion we learn the detailing of an escort to Col. Sawyers rests, and will, in our judgment, exercise that discretion wisely and beneficially in thus conferring a lasting benefit on a very large section of the country by furnishing said escort for the purposes and objects above named.²²

The Hon. A. W. Hubbard, representative in Congress from Iowa, started early in the winter to do his part in securing the escort. From letters received by him which were published in the *Sioux City Journal*, the escort along with two howitzers were assured by the proper authorities.²³

As preparations were nearing a close, a rumor came

²²*Sioux City Journal*, March 24, 1866.

²³*Ibid.*, June 25, 1866, letters to A. W. Hubbard from Br't. Col. Babcock, Maj. Gen. Pope, and Brv't Major Gen. A. B. Dyer, Chief of Ordnance, relating to the matter of troop escort and the use of two howitzers, all of which were favorable.

that General Cooke had countermanded the order for an escort. Investigation proved this rumor to be true. Even with A. W. Hubbard's assistance it was impossible to obtain two howitzers. Sawyers, however, was not to be stopped by such a thing happening so near the date of departure. Independently he secured rifles and revolvers for each of his men and started out with no escort.

To add to his troubles the boat on which his supplies were coming ran aground some distance down the river from Sioux City. It was necessary to transfer these supplies to another boat. All of this retarded the start several days.

There was considerable rivalry between Council Bluffs on the central route across the plains, and Sioux City as to the relative merits of those towns as starting points for western roads. The Council Bluffs *Nonpareil* was always ready to publish rumors or stories which painted a black picture for the Niobrara route. The fighting Sioux City *Journal* invariably answered all such articles with contrasting evidence, and gave the Sawyers expedition an encouraging send-off.

The route followed on the expedition of 1866 was practically the same as that of 1865. Many of the fords across streams and rivers made in 1865 were found in good condition. In most cases the trail was still marked. From the previous year's experience distances in many places were shortened and the total distance was cut down over a hundred miles. This second expedition also reduced the time from four months to approximately two and one-half months. The expedition left Niobrara June 12 and arrived in Virginia City August 20.

There were also Indian difficulties on this trip, but this time there was no escort to help. Again the Territory of Wyoming proved to be the region with the Red Man on the warpath. On July 8 between the North and South Cheyenne rivers five Indians made a dash at the expedition's mules. In the melee which followed the Indians got away with two ponies, but one of the Indians was killed. On July 13, a group of Indians attacked the party during the night, but a few shots scared the assailants away.

While in camp near Pumpkin Buttes July 14, two men who were sent out to do some scouting were attacked by Indians. Help was sent immediately and the Indians scattered. After these encounters Sawyers tried to get Colonel Carrington at Fort Reno (formerly Fort Connor) to give the expedition an escort, but the Colonel refused on the ground that it was too dangerous a country in which to divide his forces. In a letter to the *Sioux City Journal* by a person who signed his name "Expedition," the writer stated that the expedition was joined near Fort Reno by Captain Zoller's train.²⁴ This added thirty-two wagons and sixty-one men, making a total of one hundred forty-five men. This letter also made mention of one soldier and one trader being killed in Indian fights while the expedition traveled through the Fort Reno vicinity.

In many ways this trip was similar in its routine and experience to the expedition of 1865. Wood, water, and grass were the ever-present needs. Daily trips averaged between twelve and eighteen miles. Harmony and comfort within uncontrollable conditions seemed to prevail throughout the expedition.

After reaching Virginia City, August 20, it took several weeks for Sawyers to dispose of the outfit as many other emigrants were trying to do the same thing and the market for such goods was flooded. Sawyers finally took part of the outfit to Helena where after several weeks of hard work, he sold it. The remainder was closed out by Cook and Newell, auction and commission merchants.

With business matters closed Sawyers returned to his home in Sioux City. The *Journal*, in an article in which Sawyers' return was discussed, wrote

On Sunday evening last Col. Sawyers arrived at home from Montana, having made the home trip via Salt Lake, California, and around the coast to New York. In a brief conversation with him since his return, he states that he found the route from Niobrara to Virginia City all that was claimed for it last year; and in fact, upon making the trip the second time, he is more than ever convinced of its superiority over any route heretofore traveled from

²⁴*Sioux City Journal*, Sept. 22, 1866.

the Missouri river. Mr. Sawyers is satisfied that the greater portion of the overland travel to the mines is destined to take the Niobrara route as shorter, safer, and better in every way than all others. Mr. Sawyers is a man of no idle words, and his statements can be safely relied upon. He could certainly have no object in trying to deceive the people by misrepresentation, as his work is now done, and his connections with the route at an end, and any effort to induce people to travel by this route against their interests must react upon himself. We learn that a train will be fitted up in this place in the spring to go through upon this route. They intend starting about the middle of May and will go through by the fourth of July.²⁵

While this article emphasized Sawyers' enthusiasm for the Niobrara route, and said that a train would be fitted out to start from Sioux City about the middle of May, 1867, the expedition of 1866 proved to be the last one of any note from Sioux City. Railroads were in the offing soon to replace these wagon roads which had been so courageously made.

Meanwhile Fisk put into the background his failures of 1864 and 1865, and started plans for a Minnesota expedition of 1866. With the Civil War over, large numbers were wishing to try their fortunes in new lands. The business upturn following the war was also in this persistent man's favor. Some freight business was also acquired to add to the profit of the trip.

While the route did not follow exactly those of 1862 and 1863, due to government regulations of following along the way of Fort Abercrombie, Fort Wadsworth, Fort Berthold, and finally Fort Benton, it was quite uneventful. Some of the members of the expedition took part in a fruitless stampede in the Sun River Valley, but most of them finally reached Helena where they tried their fortune in various gulches of that vicinity. Many of these people did not find the wealth which they had anticipated and eventually drifted into the more stable tasks of a settled community.

This trip was the last one for Fisk. He took his family along and, with them, made his home in Montana.

²⁵*Ibid.*, Dec. 1, 1866.

WAGON ROADS YIELD TO RAILROADS

In 1867 the veterans, Fisk, Holmes, and Sawyers took no steps to plan expeditions. Captain P. B. Davy now stepped into the picture as a leader.

Early in the preceding winter, Davy started to make his plans. He was very much interested in getting military protection, but the matter was held up for some time as was the case with other expeditions. At first Davy thought that his group could go through under the protection of a mail train, but finally it moved forward with a detachment of soldiers who were driving cattle through to the army post at Fort Berthold in Dakota Territory. Davy publicized his expeditions widely. When the group assembled at Fort Abercrombie the latter part of June, there was found to be two hundred twenty-seven persons, one hundred fourteen of whom were members of twenty-one German families enroute to Oregon. Captain Smith with one hundred men was to drive the cattle through. The party made the trip in good shape until Fort Ransome was reached. At this point there seemed to be some dissatisfaction with the command and Captain Smith replaced Davy for awhile. When Smith left the group, Davy resumed his command. By the end of the journey harmony seemed to prevail again, and many were eager to champion the cause of Davy. Helena was reached on September 26.

There was no settled route across the plains. The enthusiasm of the gold rush to Montana led the outfitting points, such as Sioux City and St. Paul, to believe that the opening of wagon roads to the Far West was essential for their prosperity. But the development of wagon roads soon faded into history to be replaced by the growing railroad program. Within two years after the last overland expedition, the Union Pacific was ready to take emigrants from Omaha to the coast. In a few more years the Northern Pacific made a connection from St. Paul to the Far West. Railroads as a means of transportation carried on with so much more safety and comfort, as well as in much less time than that with which the wagon roads with unlimited cour-

age had struggled to do so slowly, and with much suffering to those involved.

—Miss Alice Myers of Des Moines, Iowa, is an instructor in history in Lincoln High School, Des Moines.

THE IOWA ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL HISTORICAL SOCIETIES

On Saturday, October 11, the Iowa Association of Local Historical Societies was officially organized at a second state-wide meeting held in Des Moines. Attended by representatives of local historical societies, their friends, and many interested individuals, the meeting was an outgrowth of the successful "Iowa Conference on Local History" held in Des Moines in May, 1941. The result of careful study and much planning by the Organizing Committee appointed by that Conference, the program of October 11 included an address at the morning session by Dr. Arthur J. Larsen, Superintendent of the Minnesota Historical Society, a noon luncheon at which the Association had as its guests Governor George A. Wilson, Chief Justice Frederic M. Miller, and Miss Jessie M. Parker, Superintendent of Public Instruction; in the afternoon business session the plan was adopted which took the step integrating the work of individual local historical societies, with the guidance and sponsorship of the two state historical agencies, the State Historical Society of Iowa at Iowa City, and the Iowa Department of History and Archives, in Des Moines, into a state-wide program.

The success of the fall session was due to the diligence of the Organizing Committee, composed of Henry K. Peterson of Council Bluffs, chairman, Remley J. Glass, Mason City, Walter H. Beal, West Union, W. S. Johnson, Newton, Mrs. Gertrude Henderson, Sioux City, secretary, and Miss Charlotte E. Crosley, Webster City. Dr. John E. Briggs of the State Historical Society of Iowa at Iowa City, and Kenneth E. Colton of the Iowa Department of History and Archives were ex-officio members, representing their respective institutions.

Holding several full committee meetings in executing their assigned task, the committee adopted recommended

drafts of articles of incorporation for a state association and a county historical society as well as issuing the call for the fall meeting.

The quick interest developed in the movement launched in May was evidenced by the increased attendance and the enlarged representation of Iowa counties at the October meeting. Whereas in May twenty-seven counties were represented, in October, forty-two were present. The attendance was fully 50% larger than at the spring meeting.

THE MORNING SESSION

The morning program, following the secretary's roll call which disclosed forty-two counties represented, was centered in the address of Dr. Arthur J. Larsen, Superintendent of the Minnesota Historical Society, who spoke on "Local Historical Society Organization, with Special Reference to Minnesota."

Reminding his listeners that Americans had for long been so busy conquering a raw wilderness that they seldom took note of the fact that they were making history, or of the need for its preservation, Dr. Larsen stated that this condition was supported by the fact that not until the middle of the eighteenth century did Americans begin to attain a consciousness of themselves as something different from Englishmen transplanted. This development, spurred by the Revolutionary struggle, led to the establishment of the Massachusetts Historical Society, the oldest such institution in the country, which commemorated in 1941 its 150th anniversary.

"In the states of our Northwest," Dr. Larsen continued, after settlement began, "the historical movement took root early. Wisconsin, admitted as a state in 1848, organized a historical society in 1849. Iowa, which had entered the union in 1846, established a historical society in 1857. In Illinois, the Chicago Historical Society was organized in 1856. Minnesota, with unusual precocity, established a historical society in 1849, the year of her organization as a territory."

Remarking that "basically, the work of all historical societies is the same," Dr. Larsen outlined the three basic duties of the Minnesota Historical Society as first the collection of records, "records in the form of published works, newspapers, letters, diaries, and manuscripts, and physical remains of artifacts, such as tools, implements, and objects that the men and women of Minnesota used or had in their homes." The second duty is the preservation of those records for the benefit of future generations. The third task is the dissemination of that information to the people of the state, "through public meetings, through publications, and through the use, by the people, of the museum, library, newspaper and manuscript collections of the society."

"Each of these duties is a continuing one. Today is tomorrow's yesterday, and unless that truism is accepted, the documents from which a people's history may be written are hopelessly lost."

But as Minnesota reached maturity, "it became evident that however well the Minnesota Historical Society fulfilled its functions, no matter how industriously it sought to perform its duties, there was a zone in the life of the people which it could not reach, a need which the society could not meet. It was to fill that need that the county historical society movement was started. Based upon the same principles as those that guided the Minnesota Historical Society, and pursuing the same general ends, the county, or local historical society was able to reach into a sphere which the larger unit failed to touch." Asserting that the value of the local society was in proportion to its contact with "all the people, whatever their interests, ages, race, or social status" in a given community, Dr. Larsen declared that "when it performs its tasks, the partnership between the local society and the state historical society becomes ideal, for the one institution supplements the other, and the work of neither is complete without the cordial co-operation of the other."

The recent activity in Minnesota and elsewhere in respect to local historical interest was not the first such activity in that state. The difficulty with the "brief flurry of unor-

ganized effort to establish local historical societies and old settlers' associations during the last half of the nineteenth century" was that they were too purely local, and often too purely social in nature, served no broad general purpose, and co-operated with no other agencies in a definite program. "Only in the last score of years, under the sponsorship of the Minnesota Historical Society has the local history movement developed in Minnesota." Today, Dr. Larsen noted, "the county which possesses no historical society of its own is looked upon with a question—a wonder why these people are not curious about their own intimate past as they are about other aspects of their daily lives." At present sixty-three of the eighty-eight counties have local societies.

Reminding the conference that the work of the local society was fundamentally the same as that of the larger state society, Collection, Preservation, and Education, Dr. Larsen asserted that there would be no lack of loyal willing workers if an interest was aroused in a community. Noting the rich almost neglected sources of documents in attics and barns, of half-forgotten trunks full of the records of a former day, letters, diaries, newspapers, an expense book, a family album, pamphlets, posters, placards, of sheds and barns housing old breaking plows, ox-chains, butter molds, slates, etc, the speaker declared that collecting historical material can be and is fun.

When found these materials must be housed in a suitable shelter, and "the society must then carry on its work of telling the story of the past—a story that must be told through public meetings, through newspapers, magazines, and books, through visits of the people to the collections that have been established. The task of the local historical society is not completed until every man, woman, and child in the community has become aware that he or she is a part of the great past. The goal of the local historical society cannot be reached until the people of the neighborhood have come to understand the great essential truth that history begins at home.

"In Minnesota the local history movement was sponsored by the Minnesota Historical Society. When local groups are discovered to have an interest in the history of their communities the society fosters that interest. When it has grown to the point where organization of a local historical society is possible, our staff is available for advice and assistance. Twenty years ago, we devised a sample form of constitution for local historical societies which satisfies not only the requirements for the successful prosecution of the aims of such a society, but those for legal incorporation as well. When organization is undertaken, the society sends out a speaker to assist and guide the local group. Once organization is completed, our task has just begun, for then we are called upon to supervise the work of the local society, and help it adjust its program to its resources.

"Periodically, the Minnesota Historical Society conducts local history conferences. At the time of our annual meeting, it has become customary to devote the opening session to a discussion of local history problems. In the past year and a half, sentiment has been expressed in favor of converting this informal conference into a permanent organization under the sponsorship of the executive council of the state society. It is probable that final action on this suggestion will be taken at our next annual meeting in January, 1942.

"This appears to be a logical step. In 1929, the Minnesota legislature enacted legislation making it possible for the counties of Minnesota to appropriate money for the support of the local historical society. In almost every county where there is a local society, some such form of aid is now being given. There were two safeguards in the law to prevent groups from exploiting the situation. Both of them involves the Minnesota Historical Society. The first is that before financial aid can be given a local historical society, it must be approved by the Minnesota Historical Society. The second condition was that the local historical society must be affiliated, through annual institutional membership, with the Minnesota Historical Society. These conditions imply some form of permanent state organiza-

tion of the local history groups under the leadership of the Minnesota Historical Society.

"Such is the present situation in Minnesota. Our treatment of the need differs in detail from that followed in other states, but basically, the problems are the same. There is no conflict of interests between the local historical society and the larger state-wide groups if, at the beginning, we realize that the history of the state is, after all, but the summation of the history of its communities. If this truth is understood the story of the community, as unfolded by the local historical society, will be broadened by the knowledge that the community has influenced the course of state history. The work of those whose interest is not restricted by community or county lines will be enriched by the great flood of information that the local historical societies can release. With proper balance and honest co-operation, all interests will be well served by the study of community history, the basis for all history."

Following the discussion period which arose after Dr. Larsen's address, the conference recessed for a luncheon program at which Governor George A. Wilson, Chief Justice Frederic M. Miller, and Jessie M. Parker, Superintendent of Public Instruction briefly addressed the group and tendered the conference their congratulations upon taking the important step of integrating local history into the state-wide program of historical activities.

AFTERNOON SESSION

The afternoon meeting continued with a discussion of the numerous points raised by Dr. Larsen's presentation in the morning session. Following this discussion Remely J. Glass, chairman of the sub-committee appointed to draft the articles of incorporation for the Iowa Association of Local Historical Societies, submitted the report on behalf of the committee. With the adoption of a minor amendment providing for the inclusion in the Association of district organizations as well as town, city, and county societies, the conference unanimously approved the report and adopted the articles of incorporation as amended.

Proceeding to the electing of officers, the report of the nominating committee, submitted by its chairman, Miss Ethyl E. Martin, was unanimously adopted, there being no other nominations from the floor. The following individuals were declared elected:

President, Henry K. Peterson, Council Bluffs
Vice President, Walter H. Beall, West Union
Secretary, Mrs. Getrude Henderson, Sioux City
Treasurer, Remley J. Glass, Mason City

Directors at Large:

Homer Calkin, Clearfield
Richard C. Leggett, Fairfield
Prof. Francis I. Moats, Indianola

Representatives from the State Historical Society of Iowa

Miss Ethyl E. Martin

Dr. John E. Briggs

Representatives from the Iowa State Department of History and Archives

Ora Williams

Kenneth E. Colton

According to the provisions of the articles of incorporation, the session resolved itself into congressional district caucuses to select district directors for the Association. The elected directors are as follows:

First, John H. Bailey, Davenport

Second, Prof. S. S. Reque, Decorah

Third, Leon S. Barnes, Northwood

Fourth, Dr. P. A. Johnson, Grinnell

Fifth, A. C. Graybeal, Des Moines

Sixth, Miss Bessie Lyon, Webster City

Seventh, O. J. Pruitt, Council Bluffs

Eighth, Mrs. C. M. Mohler, Sac City

With the association fully organized, President Peterson then assigned to each unorganized county assistance either from neighboring counties, or designated a known interested individual in that county, to forward the work of organizing a local historical society there.

Votes of special thanks were offered by the conference to Dr. Arthur J. Larsen for his address, and to the Organiz-

ing Committee for its splendid work, with that the conference adjourned.

The forty-two counties represented at the October 11 meeting were

Appanoose	Hamilton	Polk
Benton	Humboldt	Pottawattamie
Black Hawk	Jasper	Poweshiek
Boone	Jefferson	Ringgold
Calhoun	Johnson	Sac
Cerro Gordo	Linn	Scott
Chickasaw	Madison	Shelby
Clayton	Mahaska	Story
Dallas	Marshall	Tama
Fayette	Monroe	Union
Floyd	Montgomery	Warren
Franklin	Muscatine	Webster
Fremont	O'Brien	Winneshiek
Guthrie	Osceola	Woodbury

ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION

OF THE

IOWA ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL HISTORICAL SOCIETIES

ARTICLE I.

We whose names are hereto subscribed, being all citizens of the State of Iowa and of full age, do hereby associate ourselves together as a corporation not for pecuniary profit, under provision of Chapter 394 of the Code of Iowa and Acts amendatory thereto.

ARTICLE II. Name and Location

The name of this corporation shall be the "Iowa Association of Local Historical Societies" and its principal place of business shall be in the City of Council Bluffs, Pottawattamie County, Iowa.

ARTICLE III. Objects and Purposes.

The purposes of this corporation shall be:

1. To kindle and keep alive an active interest in state and local history.
2. To cooperate as fully as possible with the work of the State Historical Society of Iowa, the Iowa State Department of History and Archives, and with such other agencies in the county, state, district, or nation as may be created from time to time, for the commemora-

tion of historical events, the preservation of historical records, and the marking of historical sites.

3. To assist in the organization and maintenance of district, county, city, and community historical societies and to integrate and implement their activities.

4. At no time shall there be any duplication by this Association of any of the functions of the State Historical Society of Iowa, or the Iowa State Department of History and Archives.

ARTICLE IV. Membership.

The membership of this Association shall consist of:

1. Such district, county, city, or community historical societies in the state of Iowa as shall make application for membership, and pay the annual dues of \$2.00.

2. Such individual citizens of Iowa as may be elected to membership by the Board of Directors and pay the annual dues of \$1.00.

3. And sustaining members who shall be elected by the Board of Directors and pay annual dues of \$5.00 per year.

Any individual or sustaining member who shall have paid \$25.00 in dues shall be relieved from further payments and shall be entitled to life membership.

Annual fees shall be payable on the 1st day of January of each year, and failure to pay the same within six months after notice of delinquency shall result in termination of membership.

Each county, city, or community historical society which is a member of this corporation shall be entitled to three votes at any and all elections or balloting, and each individual or sustaining member shall be entitled to one vote.

ARTICLE V. Corporate Powers.

This corporation assumes to itself as such corporation, all the rights, powers, privileges, and immunities conferred upon similar organizations under provision of Chapter 394 of the 1939 Code of Iowa and Acts amendatory thereto, and takes to itself the power to sell, hold, encumber, convey, and dispose of property both real and personal, in any manner not prohibited by law, and consistent with the objects and purposes of the corporation and necessary and convenient for the proper conduct of the affairs of the corporation.

The provisions of this article are specifically subject to the provision against duplication of activities as contained in Article III.

ARTICLE VI. Corporate Term.

This corporation shall continue for a period of fifty years from the date of the filing hereof unless sooner dissolved by majority vote of all the members of this society, by Act of the General Assembly, or by law.

ARTICLE VII. Officers

1. The officers of this corporation shall consist of a President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Board of directors, who shall be elected from the membership at the annual meeting of the corporation and shall hold office for one year and until their successors are elected and have qualified.

2. The Board of Directors shall consist of the President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer of the Association by virtue of their office, and three members elected by the general membership of the Association from that district; one member from each congressional District of the State elected by the members of the Association from that district; two members from the State Historical Society of Iowa, elected by the Board of Directors of that organization; and two members from the Iowa State Department of History and Archives elected by the Board of Directors of that organization.

ARTICLE VIII. Board of Directors - Duties.

The Board of Directors shall have control over and manage the real and personal property of the organization and shall have charge of its financial and business affairs. They shall perform those duties usually performed by such a Board.

ARTICLE IX. Vacancies.

Vacancies in the officers or Board of Directors of this corporation shall be filled by the Board of Directors or the remaining members thereof and such appointees shall hold office until the election and qualification of their successors at the next annual meeting of this corporation.

ARTICLE X. Finances.

Contracts, deeds, conveyances, notes, or other evidences of indebtedness, and mortgages securing the same, shall be signed and executed in the name of the corporation by its President or Vice President and Secretary.

ARTICLE XI. Meetings.

1. The first regular annual business meeting of the Association shall be held at two o'clock in the afternoon on the 11th day of October, 1941, at Des Moines, Iowa, or such other place as may be determined by the Board of Directors.

2. Subsequent regular annual business meetings of the Association shall be held on the second Saturday of October of each year at such hour and place as may be designated by the Board of Directors.

3. Special meetings of the corporation may be held upon the call of the majority of the Board of Directors or upon the written request of ten members of said corporation.

4. Notice of the regular annual meeting or special meeting of the corporation shall be given by mailing a copy of said notice to members in good standing at least ten days prior to the time of said meeting. Notices of special meetings shall set out the purposes and business to be considered and no other business shall be considered.

ARTICLE XII. Meetings of Board of Directors

1. The annual meeting of the Board of Directors shall be held immediately following the annual meeting of the membership.

2. The Board of Directors may make such provision for regular meetings as it may determine.

3. Special meetings of the Board of Directors may be held at such times and places as may be designated by the President upon three days' written notice thereof.

ARTICLE XIII. Executive Committee.

The Board of Directors shall elect an executive committee to be composed of the President, Secretary, and three members of the Board who shall have general charge of the business of the Association in the periods between directors' meetings. Meetings of the executive committee may be called at any time by the President upon three days' written notice.

ARTICLE XIV. Quorum.

Twenty-five members of the corporation shall constitute a quorum to transact business for any regular or special meeting of the corporation.

ARTICLE XV. By-Laws.

By-Laws shall be adopted by the corporation and may be amended at any regular annual business meeting of the corporation or at any special meeting called for that purpose.

ARTICLE XVI. Exemptions.

The private property of any and all of the members of this corporation shall be exempt from any and all liability for the acts of the corporation or for any of its indebtedness.

ARTICLE XVII. Amendments

These articles may be amended at any regular annual business meeting or at any special meeting of the corporation called for such purpose by the affirmative vote of three-fourths of the members at the meeting.

IOWA LOCAL HISTORICAL SOCIETIES (ORGANIZED)

ADAIR COUNTY

Adair County Historical Society

R. H. Gregory, Fontanelle, President

CERRO GORDO COUNTY

Cerro Gordo County Historical Society

Remley J. Glass, Mason City, President

Hugh H. Shepard, Mason City, Vice-President

Kenneth I. Waughtal, Mason City, Secretary and
Treasurer

DES MOINES COUNTY

Old Des Moines Association

Mrs. E. R. Hertzler, 1000 Eighth Street, Burlington

FAYETTE COUNTY

Fayette County Centennial Association

D. R. Roberts, West Union, President

Walter H. Beall, West Union, Treasurer

GUTHRIE COUNTY

Guthrie County Historical Society

Miss Elizabeth Hudson, Panora, President

W. Benedict, Casey, Secretary

HAMILTON COUNTY

Hamilton County Historical Society

Miss Bessie Lyon, Webster City, President

J. W. Lee, Webster City, Vice-President

Fred C. Runkle, Stanhope, Secretary

Mrs. John Sheldon, Webster City, Treasurer

HOWARD COUNTY

Howard County Historical Society

W. H. Tillson, Cresco, President

JASPER COUNTY

Jasper County Historical Society

Fred E. Meredith, Newton, President

Mrs. Mark J. Shaw, Newton, Vice-President

W. S. Johnson, Newton, Secretary

W. J. Price, Treasurer

LINN COUNTY

Linn County Historical Society

B. L. Wick, Cedar Rapids, President

MADISON COUNTY

Madison County Historical Society

H. A. Mueller, St. Charles, President

Charles Tucker, Winterset, Vice-President
Mrs. Fred Hartsook, Winterset, Secretary
Mrs. Fred Lewis, Winterset, Treasurer

MAHASKA COUNTY

Mahaska County Historical Society
J. C. Bradbury, Oskaloosa, President

MARION COUNTY

Pella Historical Society
S. S. Sybenga, Pella, Curator

MARSHALL COUNTY

Marshall County Historical Society
Ida M. Evans, Marshalltown, Treasurer

O'BRIEN COUNTY

O. H. Montzheimer, Primghar, President
Charles F. McCormack, Sutherland, Vice-President
John A. Campbell, Sheldon, Secretary and Treasurer

OSCEOLA COUNTY

Osceola County Historical Society
Mrs. L. H. (Bertha G.) Heetland, Sibley, President

PLYMOUTH COUNTY

Plymouth County Historical Society
Mrs. B. C. Wolley, LeMars, President
R. I. Koehler, LeMars, Secretary

POCAHONTAS COUNTY

Pocahontas County Historical Society
Miss M. Alice Cole, Pocahontas

POLK COUNTY

Polk County Historical Society
Ray C. Stiles, Des Moines, President
J. E. Howard, Des Moines, Vice-President
J. A. Wilbois, Des Moines, Secretary
H. C. Plummer, Des Moines, Treasurer

POTTAWATTAMIE COUNTY

Pottawattamie County Historical Society
Henry K. Peterson, Council Bluffs, President

RINGGOLD COUNTY

Ringgold County Historical Society
Homer L. Calkin, Clearfield, President
Arthur S. Palmer, Mt. Ayr, Vice-President

Vera F. Dickens, Mt. Ayr, Secretary

C. D. Allyn, Mt. Ayr, Treasurer

SCOTT COUNTY

Davenport Public Museum

John H. Bailey, Davenport, Director

UNION COUNTY

Union County Historical Society

B. L. Tyler, Afton, President

Ray Wilson, Creston, Vice-President

Mrs. Henry Carolus, Afton, Secretary and Treasurer

WARREN COUNTY

Warren County Historical Society

C. C. Briggs, Indianola, President

WEBSTER COUNTY

Webster County Historical Society

Mrs. Maude Lauderdale, Fort Dodge, Secretary

WINNESHIEK COUNTY

Greater Winneshiek County League

Prof. S. S. Reque, Luther College, Decorah, President

Dr. J. P. Malloy, Castalla, Vice-President

Jerome R. Oslund, Decorah, Secretary

WOODBURY COUNTY

Sioux City Public Museum

Mrs. Gertrude Henderson, Sioux City, Curator

Smithland Historical Society

The Rev. A. Pruit, President

Mrs. Will H. McDonald, Vice President

Woodbury County Historical Society Including the
Academy of Science and Letters

D. S. Lewis, Sioux City, President

C. S. Van Eaton, Vice President

C. C. Fowler, Treasurer

Mrs. Gertrude Henderson, Secretary

WORTH COUNTY

Worth County Historical Society

O. K. Storre, Kensett, President

Leon Barnes, Northwood, Vice-President

Glenn O. Tenold, Northwood, Second Vice-President

EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT

FIFTY YEARS OLD

In April, 1942, the Iowa Department of History and Archives will observe the semi-centennial of its founding, April 8, 1892. During the week of April 5-11 a series of special observances and programs will be offered to the public of Iowa, and the nation generally, which will suitably mark that important milestone in the history of this Department. In each and all of these occasions the public is cordially invited to join.

In 1892, Charles Aldrich, a veteran newspaper publisher who came to Iowa from New York in the mid 1850's and grew up with the northwestern section of the state, a veteran public official, a keen and active observer in the Civil War, and widely known throughout the state for his long interest in things historical, at last achieved his dream of many years, when there was established by legislative enactment an "Iowa Department of History."

There is much for which one can be proud in the record of this short half-century.

From the nucleus of just an autograph collection, from the two small wooden cases which originally housed them in the southwestern corner of the state house basement, from a staff of one, the Department has grown to five full blown divisions, to a crowded display on four floors, to a fine house of Iowa Limestone, to a working force of twenty employees.

But growth, like the physical progress which marks the fifty-year life of this Department, came not by accident or chance. It is largely the result of someone's planning, someone's devoted work. The Department has been blessed throughout all its life with earnest, sincere, imaginative Curators. Charles Aldrich's grasp of the future of the De-

partment, his early insistence upon preserving the rich cultural heritages of Iowa—which in 1892 were nowhere being protected—his understanding of the values of official documents, these and more, all draw respect from the historians of the present day. Under his sixteen year administration the nucleus of the whole Department took form: the Iowa newspaper collection—the choicest of the whole middle west, the manuscript collection of Iowa men and women—the outgrowth of his autograph collection, *THE ANNALS OF IOWA*, the museum, the library, and, in 1906, the public archives, all came into being during that span of time.

Succeeding Mr. Aldrich came Edgar R. Harlan, who served his apprenticeship under the former. Possessed of a natural curiosity and a hard driving energy, Mr. Harlan built well upon the framework left him by his predecessor. Collections of museum riches, the stagecoach, the monster conestoga wagon, the wealth of Indian material, many choice examples of natural history, much of all this came in the administration of E. R. Harlan.

In his short two years in the Department succeeding Mr. Harlan, O. E. Klingaman demonstrated an equal devotion to the responsibilities of this institution to the State of Iowa. The present curator, Ora Williams, is, like Mr. Aldrich, a veteran newspaper man of many years standing, possessing a close and intimate acquaintance with many of the forging forces of our recent history, close to the lives of industrialists, managers, and statesmen during the years. He brings to the Department the same sincere solicitous and imaginative concern so characteristic of those before him.

But an institution is more than a roster of its men, more than a list of its divisions. It is most of all its services. While much has been done for the state of Iowa in stimulating a consciousness of the wealth of its own cultural and historical past through publication in *THE ANNALS*, lectures, and the eloquence of silent historical exhibits, on the occasion of the Semi-centennial this Department pledges an increasingly effective concern in serving the remotest village in Iowa as well as the closest neighbor. The Department furthermore pledges to exercise as much interest in

preserving the history that is being made as in that which has been accomplished. It is our hope that many will join in both pledges.

In the various observances which will make up the celebration of the semi-centennial detailed programs will be announced from time to time. The climax of the celebration will be in the week April 5-11.

K. E. G.

LET'S KEEP A DIARY!

Almost every one of us has, at some time in our lives, kept a diary. In most instances the diary was soon abandoned when the initial enthusiasm died and the first obstacles arose to its continuance. Yet although we smile indulgently when admitting it in public, still most of us remember with pleasure our experience as a diarist.

Too long, however, we have relegated the keeping of diaries to the young, the immature, the sentimentalists, or classed it among those things we would like to do, but "just have not got around to doing yet." Moreover, for too long too many of us have felt that keeping a diary was akin to an unwarranted conceit, that one's thoughts and opinions were worth the keeping. Fundamentally we all think so, but we have hesitated to declare it in the overt act of starting a diary.

The editor believes, very strenuously, that if what one does is worth doing, then it also is worth making a note of, especially of what one thinks. For those who place a humble estimate upon their role in life, let them remember that history is more and more recognizing that it is the complex problems of the common man and his society that makes up much of the complicated whole. Besides, as Lincoln might have phrased it, the Lord surely loved the common man, for he made so many of them.

Keeping a diary is no juvenile whim, no immature enthusiast's fancy. On the contrary, keeping a diary should

appeal to the intelligent and busy adults, to the public spirited, to men of high and low degree. Moreover, a consideration of what a diary is will quickly demonstrate that it justifies all the effort and continued thought every good diary deserves.

It is hoped that a large number of thoughtful readers may be persuaded to begin this pleasant and venerable practice, we discuss briefly three kinds of diaries. Although all diaries must be kept by individuals, there are, depending upon their emphasis, the personal, the family, and the public diaries and diarists.

There are good reasons for keeping a personal diary. A salesman keeps a careful set of figures showing his record in his territory; a doctor maintains a case history on each of his patients; a farmer painstakingly checks the pedigree of his stock. Who among these keeps a check upon himself? Is it more important that a farmer should know the seasonal variations in the weight of his hogs, the acreage of each of his crops, than that he know or record what he has thought and what he has done? If it seems common sense that the accumulated notes of one's weekly or monthly sales, or marketing record, is of importance, then surely of equal importance to a man should be the weekly notes of what he thought, his judgments of matters personal and business.

Furthermore, a private personal diary can be used to help the individual navigate himself. Several years ago a college dean told the editor that at the twenty-fifth reunion of his college class a member confided to him that he had not had an original thought since he left school! The tragedy was, the dean said, no confession was necessary. Possibly such a person would not keep a diary, but we hopefully believe that even such could profit from scanning his diary-record.

For these and other excellent reasons, Let's Keep a Diary!

But private journals are always something more than just personal diaries. Thus every person's diary is a partial record of the family. We believe with conscious thought

that such a personal-family diary might become an even more valuable family record.

Just as of right there ought to be an understanding of the history of nations and of the local community, so ought there to be an understanding of the history of each family by its members. We speak here of something far more than a mere genealogical chart. It takes information to make a history of nation or family. The diary offers for the family just that.

Such a record is useful and interesting. What man now living on the middle western lands or in the middle western cities of the Mississippi Valley but would give much to know WHY and HOW and the first RESULTS of his forebearers coming from the East to settle in that fertile valley, one hundred, seventy, twenty, or-what-the-number of years ago? What family but would want to know, or would profit in knowing, what their members thought of Lincoln, of the railroad schemes and speculations of the nineteenth century, how the family contributed to the building of the line through their town? What part did the family take in the farm and third party movements of the day? What did the family think of the Progressive Era of a La Follette, a Cummins, of their contemporaries, the Allisons and the Aldriches? How did the head-of-the-house feel about the first automobile he saw? Surely such a knowledge by a later generation contributes to significant living.

If such a diary-journal of the past has value, the same can be said of a record of the events of today, kept for the next generation. What farmer has kept a record of his struggles in the twenties and thirties, of his views and responses to the various federal and state proposals for "agricultural relief?" What business man who climbed the mountains in the bull market years of the twenties has kept a personal record of those days, and of the debacle of 1929? What men who helped to organize and operate the NRA in Iowa and the middle west have written a line about the Blue Eagle?

Who would be so bold as to say that his son or grandson would not read with profit and keen interest twenty

years hence such a record of farm, office, shop, or laboratory, of home and community?

Such records can be found in the newspapers and in books, you say, why then a family diary, or any diary? So far as the individual is concerned, the newspapers, as the lawyers would say, is but "hearsay evidence," usually, that is, second hand evidence. The newspaper has its definite values, and important ones. But the superiority of the diary for the purposes of a family record is that it is of You, your actions, your problems, your thoughts. The personal family diary translates into the color of a personality the dimmed outlines of the daily record; it gives the personal touch to the sometimes be-numbing vastness of today's impersonal March of Events.

There are further reasons for keeping a family diary quite apart from the information-interest side. With the increasing urbanization of our whole society, the dependence of the family one upon another has sharply lessened; the gulfs between generations have widened. All too often there arise those "who knew not Joseph," those who do not know the forces in the background of their family, and hence "do not understand." A well kept family journal contributes much to developing that understanding and harmony of purposes upon which family life depends. In an urban age we can not take that harmony for granted. Moreover, although its importance is often exaggerated by ancestral organizations, there is a genuine value in a sense of "belongingness," or identity, with a community, a society, a nation. Through a diary kept by a member of the family this is the more easily possessed by each generation in the recorded chain of contributions to, participation in community efforts by the family and its circle of intimates. A family diary may produce pride, but it will also produce understanding.

It is a truism, we so often overlook, that matters of national and local interests merge continually, that the border line is never fixed. Thus as one may point his personal diary for the benefit and information of the family, so too may one point or emphasize in his record those matters per-

taining more largely to the public interest. For instance we know of a man who commenced keeping a diary September 1, 1939, the day the war broke out in Europe. The primary purpose of this diary was to record one man's changing views, opinions, or feelings about the enveloping war. Though it has grown to be more than just that its primary interest remains, to reflect the national or public concern as seen and felt by himself, one single man.

Then too, quite often what one records in his diary as a personal affair includes much of public interest. The civil War army physician who wrote of the medicines he used, the incidence of disease in his camp—and diseases took more Northern soldiers than did Southern bullets—his comrades' attitude toward their stubborn opponents, and of religious life in the army, thought he was writing a private diary, but all he recorded was also a part of a larger whole. Charles Mason, Iowa's first chief justice, wrote a personal diary during most of his life. He thought of it as such when he wrote of his work as Commissioner of the Patent Office under Franklin Pierce, when he mentioned the developing division of agriculture in his office, when he discussed Iowa politics, when he noted problems of patronage in the national government. But Charles Mason likewise wrote for the larger whole.

It is obvious that in many cases the private diary is "affected with public interest." How much richer would be our understanding of the post Civil War era if all our Iowa governors had kept a diary? How much they could have contributed to our knowledge of the new problems of agriculture, the Granger Laws, the quarrel of the Radicals under Charles Sumner and Thad Stevens with Andrew Johnson of Tennessee. Where is the journal of the Iowa leaders in the Greenback and Populism movements of yesterday? What banker has preserved a journal of his affairs under the first days of the National Banking Act of 1863, or of the first operational years of the Federal Reserve Act of 1913? Where are the personal diaries of those leaders in the Iowa Farm Bureau movement twenty-five years ago?

All of these private diaries are obviously "affected

with public interest." But so far as is known they either do not exist as personal or family records, or else are known by their rarity.

For a governor, a business executive, a struggling farm leader to keep a diary is admittedly not easy. But for those in places of high trust in private or public life, the editor pleads for an awakened sense of public responsibility to "keep the record clear." He is aware that keeping a diary a public diary, demands an unusual degree a perception of the responsibilities of one's opportunities as a leader. We do not expect many such frank full and forthright diarists as that White House trio, the two Adamses, father and son, John and John Quincy, and James K. Polk. But we do hope for a growing number of journal-diaries kept by those within our state who have and are contributing signally to the history of the times. This is but honoring the people who have honored them by recognition and trust. Even an "edited," selected diary would be of great value.

In these crucial days and probably years the importance of recording our experiences as individuals, as organizational heads, as a state and as a people should be pike-staff plain. Again, let us say, if what America is trying to do is worth the doing, then it is worth the record of her humble servants. How soberly thrilling to a generation hence will be a daughter's reading of her mother's diary of the days of World War II, her bouts with the budget, the adoption of clever and shrewd expedients to stretch the inelastic dollar? How much can the educator of today contribute to the record of the 'College Man and the Forties' by a diary? Obvious are the contributions of the numerous mayors, members of draft boards, rationing commissions, volunteer committees, and all manner of service organizations.

Let's Keep a Diary!

As a confirmed diarist, perhaps a few suggestions for those who will undertake to keep a diary during the coming years may be in order.

First begin. Select a date to commence, then . . . Begin!

Provide yourself with a bound book or journal which allows sufficient space for your entries. The individual entry should be at least five lines to be of value, and best if it will allow at least fifteen.

Plan a regular time for making your entries. Some will like the evening, as do most people, including the Adamses and Charles Mason. Others will prefer the morning, like the present Secretary of War, Henry L. Stimson. Choose for yourself, but be consistent.

Do not permit a missed day or days, or even a week to bring a feeling of defeat. It is the continuity that counts, keep your eye on that essential to success. An average between a dozen and fifteen entries a month is good.

Make it fun. Keep on the watch for the significant item, the illustrative detail . . . the housewife who bought a hundred pounds of sugar in the "sugar scare" in the fall of 1939, etc. Include personalities, give your own opinions. Enjoy your diary.

And Lastly, preserve it. Keep it in a regular place, keep it secure. Other people will accept the value you yourself place upon it. If your diary is worth making it is worth keeping. See that it is safely provided for in the family, or arrange that it be eventually placed with some public or private depository, such as the Iowa Department of History and Archives. Remember, you can place whatever restrictions you wish upon its keeping.

But in any event, LET'S KEEP A DIARY!

FRED L. MAHANNAH

Assistant Curator

Whatever he did, he did with his might. These words describe Fred L. Mahannah. Life was serious business to him worthy of all the thought, energy, and devotion at his command. Service to him meant working and not dreaming, deeds and not wishful thinking.

A few months before his passing he remarked: "I am going to work as long as I can put one foot in front of the other." And that is just what happened. He died in harness. He had attended a meeting of the Iowa Association of Local Historical Societies on Saturday preceding his sudden death on Sunday October 12, 1941. On that very morning he was planning further improvements in the archives.

Cornell College at Mount Vernon was his Alma Mater. He taught in the North English high school, served as superintendent of Rockwell Public Schools and Cerro Gordo County schools. He was the first inspector of normal training high schools having been appointed to that position in 1911 by A. M. Deyoe, Superintendent of Public Instruction.

Largely through his leadership as president of the Iowa State Teachers Association, the Better Iowa Schools Commission was organized. This commission was responsible for the enactment of legislation relating to high school tuition, consolidated schools, normal training high schools, and other measures which were advanced steps in the direction of greater educational opportunity for country children.

Later he became superintendent of the Iowa Soldiers' Orphans' Home at Davenport. He then returned to public school administration as superintendent of the Monticello Public Schools. He left that position in 1927 to become Deputy Superintendent of Public Instruction. After twelve years of notable service in that office he became Assistant Curator of the Iowa Historical Department.

It was in his capacity of Deputy Superintendent of Public Instruction that we came to know and appreciate the strength of his personality and the caliber of his services. He was first of all a thorough student well versed in school law. He soon became a valuable source of help to legislators, state officers, school boards, and the general public in drafting and interpreting school laws. He was an authority in this field.

He assembled a library in the office of the Department of Public Instruction of all the volumes dealing with school law in our state and spent much time in research work in

connection with the history of many of our present statutes. He compiled a new edition of school laws or a supplement and brought the volumes up-to-date after each session of the legislature.

It is for others to comment concerning the character of his work in the state historical department of Iowa. With his zeal for classification, his flair for orderliness, and his ability to organize details into working machinery, his ingenuity in getting things done, his imagination and clarity of understanding as to what should be done and his appreciation of the importance of records in state government must have made his service unique during his short term as Assistant Curator.

He envisioned the time when the archives could be properly housed and administered in the new proposed state office building. He had gone so far as to draw up plans for new housing arrangements for the archives after consultation with expert authorities over the country. More than once he explained these blueprints to his friends and impressed all of us with their significance.

The intensity and sincerity of his service always impressed the people with whom he came in contact. One might disagree with him but no one ever had any reason to question his motives. He attacked the problems of life with directness and fortitude, never with avoidance. He depended on facts and not on expediencies. His was not the type of service which secures inches of publicity. It was inconspicuous as it was thorough. We need more public servants who are willing to find themselves by losing themselves in the cause they serve.

AGNES SAMUELSON, State Superintendent
of Public Instruction 1927-1939, Secretary
Iowa State Teachers Association
1939—

NOTABLE DEATHS

CLIFFORD VERNE GREGORY, publisher and agricultural leader, died in Des Moines, November 18, 1941. Born October 20 on a farm near Mason City, Cerro Gordo County, Iowa, the son of Elmer O. and Miller McF. Gregory, educated in the Burchinal local schools, and graduated from Iowa State College in 1910, Mr. Gregory taught agricultural journalism in the college 1910-1911. In the latter year he became editor and vice president of the *Prairie Farmer*, published in Chicago, remaining with that agricultural paper until 1937, when he became associate publisher of the *Wallace's Farmer* and *Iowa Homestead*, and the *Wisconsin Agriculturist* and *Farmer* at Racine, Wisconsin, in which capacities he continued until his death.

A director of the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago since 1940, Mr. Gregory was also a director of the Farm Foundation of the same city. He was one of the founders of the American Farm Bureau Federation. A member of the Methodist Church, he was a strong and loyal member.

DANIEL E. MAGUIRE, jurist, died December 25, 1941, in Dubuque, Iowa. Born July 30, 1879, in East Dubuque, Illinois, he was the son of Thomas G. and Ellen J. Groff Maguire. Educated in the East Dubuque public schools, and graduated from the Dubuque High School in 1898, he received his law degree from the State University of Iowa in 1903.

Associated in the practice of law in Dubuque for many years, he served as assistant County Attorney 1914-1916, being elected that same year to the bench of the 19th judicial district, where he continued until 1939.

Prominent in the political councils of his party, Judge Maguire was also actively interested in youth work, being especially interested in Boy Scout work. In 1939-1940 he was helpful in securing for the state conservation commission the group of Indian mounds near Millerville.

WILLIAM EDWARD PURCELL, lawyer, died in Clinton, Iowa, November 3, 1941. Born in Clinton November 11, 1884, the son of Edward M. and Kathrine H. Purcell, he was educated in the Clinton public schools. In 1909 he received his law degree from the State University of Iowa, and commenced the practice of law in Clinton that same year, being admitted to the bar. Active in American Legion circles and in the Boy Scout activities of his city, Mr. Purcell was member

of the city council 1922-1928, assistant county attorney 1922-1924; judge of the municipal court 1934-1935, and city attorney 1935-1937.

WILLIAM BARLOW QUARTON, jurist, died December 14, 1941. The son of William B. and Charlotte G. Quarton, he was born August 24, 1858, on a farm near Carlinville, Illinois. Educated in the Fremont, Iowa high school, he attended Oskaloosa College two years, completing his law degree at the State University of Iowa two years later, in 1882. Beginning his law career in Algona the same year, he was appointed to the district bench in 1894 to fill a vacancy, and was re-elected and served continuously until 1908, when he resumed the private practice of law.

A charter member of the Iowa State Bar Association, Judge Quarton took an active interest in civic affairs, serving eight years on the school board, and serving as president of the Algona Library Board. In addition to his law he was keenly interested in Guernsey cattle breeding, being widely recognized in Iowa and national centers for his work. He was one of the organizers of the Waterloo Dairy Cattle Congress. His agricultural interests were varied, being credited with sowing the first sweet clover in Kossuth County, he was also an officer in the Kossuth County Agricultural Society.

HALLECK W. SEAMAN, railroad engineer and waterway enthusiast, died December 15, 1941, in Clinton, Iowa. Born September 26, 1860, in Clinton, Iowa, the son of Richard S. and Emma Carter Seaman, he was educated in the Clinton public schools and the State University of Iowa, graduating from the engineering department in 1882. Upon his graduation, first as a civil engineer on the western extensions of the Chicago Northwestern, and the Chicago Milwaukee & St. Paul railroads, Mr. Seaman became actively interested in railroad construction and promotion, especially in the Southwest, building several railroad lines there as well as others in the Great Lakes region. Also actively interested in mining developments, he succeeded Herbert C. Hoover as president of the American Mining Congress.

Although prominently identified with railroad and mining interests, he was best known to Iowans for his connection with the development of the Mississippi River channel. He was for years an officer of the Inland Waterways Corporation, a member of the executive committee of the Mississippi Valley Association, and the Upper Mississippi Waterways Corporation.

Besides his rail and water interests, Mr. Seaman was a member of the Iowa state bar, and vice president of the City National Bank of Clinton, Iowa.

GEORGE WILLIAM WOOD, jurist and naturalist, died November 12, 1941, while hunting near Grundy Center, Iowa. Born December 7, 1877, in Waterville Kansas, the son of George W. and Anna K. Wood, he was educated in the Boone, Iowa, high school, and Cornell College, Mount Vernon, Iowa, where he completed his work in 1900. Admitted to the bar in 1908, he practiced first in Eldora, then in Grundy Center, and later in Waterloo. Judge of the municipal court from 1919-1920, he was appointed in the latter year to the bench of the 10th Judicial District, remaining a member of that court to the time of his death.

Actively interested in youth work, especially the Boy Scouts, and a director of the American Youth Hostels Association, Judge Wood was also prominently identified with wild life and conservation movements. A former member of the Iowa State Conservation Commission, a past national president of the Isaac Walton League for three years, and vice president of the American Forestry Association, he was also a member of the committee selected to arrange the first wild life conference in Washington, D. C., in 1936.
